

Hafa Adai!

Torres to provide FSM with PPE, 25,000 COVID-19 test kits. **PAGE 3**
USCG, Marines, Palau partners trade best practices in exercise. **PAGE 5**

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New round of boosters coming

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following the recent discovery of the BA.5 variant of COVID-19 in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has announced that another round of boosters that is specific to the strain of the virus is forthcoming.

Speaking at an online news briefing last Friday, Dr. Lily Muldoon, medical director of Public Health, said that CHCC is expecting to announce an-

other round of boosters in the next few weeks.

"We are expecting another booster to be coming out in the See **BOOSTERS** on **Page 4**



The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has announced that another round of boosters that is specific to the BA.5 variant of COVID-19 is forthcoming in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

US wants lawsuit over cockfighting ban junked

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense counsel in the case filed by a former CNMI representative who is suing the United States over its ban on cockfighting has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss the case.

Johnny H. Walker, trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, has asked the See **LAWSUIT** on **Page 4**

Sablan re-elected as CEC board chairman

» Yatar is commission's new vice chair

Jesus I. Sablan presides over a Commonwealth Election Commission board meeting after he was re-elected as chairman Friday at the CEC conference room in Susupe. Also in the photo, from left, are deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio as CEC counsel, commissioner Dorisann Aldan-Atalig, CEC executive director Kayla Igitol, and vice chair Esther Yatar.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission board members re-elected Friday Jesus I. Sablan as their chairman, a position that he has been holding since 2018.

At a board meeting held at the CEC conference room in Susupe, commissioner Esther Yatar, who is representing Rota, was

See **SABLAN** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

With monkeypox, critics fear a repeat of the inequity problems seen during the coronavirus pandemic.

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NATION

Crews battling the largest wildfire so far this year in California brace for hot, windy conditions.

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ASIA

Former Philippine President Fidel Valdez Ramos has died. He was 94.

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Local

Presumptive Eligibility for Medicaid in NMI is 24K individuals

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The estimated Presumptive Eligibility for Medicaid for the entire CNMI is 24,000 individuals but the CNMI Medicaid Agency may have no option but to end the program if there is no local match.

Speaking at a House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee's meeting in the House chamber

Thursday, acting director for the CNMI Medicaid Agency Vicenta Borja disclosed that if the CNMI does not get the local match and is unable to reimburse providers for these services, she will have to make the hard decision of ending the Presumptive Eligibility program.

She said there is no other option: It's either end the program or run into a deficit.

Presumptive Eligibility

is an expedited process of enrolling eligible residents in the CNMI Medicaid program. It allows patients to have their care covered while waiting for their application to be fully processed.

The Presumptive Eligibility Medicaid program was established pursuant to the National Public Health Emergency put in place due to COVID-19. It has been extended another three

months, or until this October.

It was Health and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) who asked Borja to elaborate on the possibility that Medicaid may have to cut Presumptive Eligibility even before the public health emergency is over. Sablan also requested some updates on Presumptive Eligibility enrollment.

Borja said that prior to Presumptive Eligibility, the rough

estimate for regular Medicaid was 14,000.

Borja agreed with Sablan that they are looking at potentially 10,000 people being removed from the roll if they're found to be ineligible.

Sablan said that would just compound the burden on the Commonwealth Health Center because it would be uncompensated care for those 10,000 people who may lose services.

Sablan said this is a very sobering information and echoed Rep. Sheila Babauta's

(D-Saipan) statement that this is very alarming. She underscored the need to continue the discussion on how to find the \$5 million local match that Medicaid needs before the end of this fiscal year and also how to ensure that Medicaid is adequately funded for the next fiscal year.

Borja stated that if there is no available \$5 million local match for Medicaid's federal allotments for fiscal year 2023, the CNMI must return \$28 million in available funds.

NMI Democrat bets to submit candidacies; hold roadside waving

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands invites supporters to join incumbents and new candidates on Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, beginning at 3:30pm, as they submit their nominating petitions at the Commonwealth Election Commission. After all the petitions have been submitted, the Party will host a celebratory wave across the street.

The Democratic Party's candidates understand that the time for reforms has passed: they are committed to transforming our government, so that we can work together to build a safe, healthy, beautiful, and sustain-

able Northern Marianas.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, in reflecting on the importance of this election, said: "I ask our people to join me in voting for Democrats, so that we might have a future free of embarrassment, corruption, and malfeasance. Vote for Tina and Leila and all the candidates of the Democratic Party. Let's make history in November!"

Reps. Tina Sablan and Leila Staffler have championed good governance for years, and if elected to the Executive Branch, they will ensure that theirs is an "open and honest government that empowers

its citizens and adheres to the highest ethical standards."

Rep. Celina Roberto Babauta, who filed her candidacy on July 20, is running to represent Saipan and the Northern Islands in the Senate. "I have stood in the face of adversity, but I never wavered in fighting for the people I represented. My colleagues and I will continue fighting for a Commonwealth that works and serves all of us," she said.

Rep. Denita Kaipat Yanggetmai is seeking re-election so she may continue working to address the challenges we all face in our communities.

She, too, filed her candidacy on July 20. "My Democratic colleagues and I will work for the people, so we might build a more formidable future."

The Blue Wave of 2020 continues in 2022, and the Democratic Party's candidates stand ready to continue the work of collaboration, transparency, accountability, responsibility, vision, and ethics.

If you have questions, visit www.nmidems.org, call (670) 234-5028 / 484-3367 (DEMS), or send an email to info@nmidems.org or cabrerajjp@gmail.com. **(Democratic Party)**

FAFSA deadline extended to Aug. 17

The deadline to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for Northern Marianas College's fall 2022 semester has been extended to Aug. 17, 2022. The supporting documents deadline is still on Sept. 30, 2022.

Prospective and current students who submit a FAFSA may qualify for up to \$6,895 in federal financial aid.

This program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program's various types

of grants, loans, and scholarships, the program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

The FAFSA is available online at fafsa.ed.gov. NMC's school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants, applicants can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@mari-anas.edu or call 237-6791.

Applicants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. **(NMC)**

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TO ASSIST FSM'S COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS

Torres to provide FSM with PPE, 25,000 COVID-19 test kits

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres met virtually last Saturday with Federated States of Micronesia President David Panuelo to discuss matters of importance to FSM, the rising COVID-19 cases throughout FSM, and how the CNMI may assist in their COVID-19 re-

sponse efforts.

Torres informed Panuelo that the CNMI is prepared to send 25,000 COVID-19 testing kits, as well as personal protective equipment such as gowns, gloves, face masks, and hand sanitizers to FSM.

"I am glad that we are able to

assist our brothers and sisters in FSM with these test kits and PPE. COVID-19 has greatly impacted our community, as well as communities around the world, and it is because of this that we understand how critical it is to implement preventative measures and utilize

resources throughout a community to mitigate the virus' spread," said Torres.

In the virtual meeting, Panuelo extended his grati-

tude and appreciation for Torres and the people of the CNMI for their assistance. Torres informed Panuelo of his commitment to providing further assistance, with



Torres

the help of the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force, and ensuring that the test kits and supplies are sent to the people of FSM as soon as possible. (PR)

NMC organizes one-stop registration center

To provide new and ongoing students an accelerated way to enroll and register for fall 2022 classes, Northern Marianas College is offering a one-stop center where students can register for classes and seek financial assistance.

The center will be open on Aug. 1 and 2, 2022 at the Office of Admissions and Records at NMC's As Terlaje campus. OAR will be open 9am to 6pm on both of these days to accommodate more students.

Students who have not yet registered for the fall or have yet to submit an application are advised to take advantage of this activity to help them facilitate the registration and enrollment process.

New students are strongly encouraged to bring the following documents: official



Northern Marianas College is offering a one-stop center where students can enroll and register for fall 2022 classes. NMC

transcript (from high school and/or college), a completed health evaluation form (download at this link: <https://bit.ly/3zBqnob>) and a copy of their passport.

The admissions application can also be filled out beforehand; the application

can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3oL8oFD>. Applicants are also advised to fill out the online Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act form at <https://bit.ly/3cK4kmb>.

For more information, contact OAR at oar@marianas.edu or call 237-6769. (PR)

US, Palau create economic reform advisory group

The United States and Republic of Palau governments have confirmed the nomination and selection of five individuals to fully constitute the Palau Advisory Group on Economic Reform, consistent with the Palau Compact Review Agreement, as amended.

"The United States government has worked successfully with Palau to give consideration to the mix

of expertise that would most benefit the work of the bilateral Advisory Group," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "Com-

combined, the five members of the newly constituted Advisory Group on Economic Reform bring years of expertise, experience, and economic knowledge to bear in carrying out their important mission. I look forward to their progress at the

initial meeting and eventually seeing their full report and recommendations."

"The United States has demonstrated the importance to which it attaches the relationship we share under the Compact of Free Association, by the quality and the caliber of its nominees..." said Palau Finance Minister and Economic Reform Advisory Group member Kaleb Udui Jr. "Palau

is appreciative of this commitment and dedication, and we look forward to continued partnership with the United States.

The Advisory Group on Economic Reform will contribute to the long-term economic sustainability and resilience of Palau. Each government designated two members, with a fifth member chosen by the United States from a list of recommenda-



Nakoa

tions by Palau. As requested by the Palau government, Interior's Office of Insular Affairs is providing limited funding for a Secretariat to provide administrative support to the advisory group.

The members of the Palau Advisory Group on Economic Reform will be announced at a later date.

The governments have initiated consultations on commencement of proceedings of the advisory group and both sides plan to begin meetings potentially as early as August. Currently constituted, the advisory group shall terminate at the end of fiscal year 2023, unless otherwise agreed by the two governments.

The Palau Compact Review agreement with the related appendices and amendment may be accessed through the OIA website under Executive Orders and Public Laws/Compacts of Free Association at: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/budget/authorities-public-law>. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-22-030

Underground Power Distribution Systems to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – Phase I

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed Architectural & Engineering (A/E) Services Proposal from qualified firms to design an underground power distribution system from the CUC Power Plant 1 Facility to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). When fully functioning, the infrastructure is designed to distribute uninterrupted power to the CHCC during tropical storms or typhoon events and following natural disasters such that the CNMI's only public owned healthcare facility is able to provide healthcare services to the CNMI's people. The RAESP project is the first step of a phase approach process in determining the cost benefits of constructing a dedicated underground power distribution system. The design of the infrastructure will convey the feasibility of this FEMA investment in delivering uninterrupted power to the CHCC during tropical storms or typhoon events and following natural disasters.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained via email between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$300.00 for one RFP package set. **To register for the RAESP, please contact Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal; and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separately sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-22-030, Underground Power Distribution Systems to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2022**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposals shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RAESP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This RAESP does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Anne Crocket, CUC Power Division Chief Engineer via email address anne.crocket@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-22-035

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, 2023 & 2024

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites.

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

Auditors are responsible to review the 2022, 2023 & 2024 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-22-035, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022, 2023 & 2024" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 3, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Orsini seeks re-election as BOE member

» Rota Municipal Council secretary Atalig seeks re-election

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Andrew L. Orsini is seeking re-election as a member of the CNMI Board of Education, while Rota Municipal Council secretary Jim Michael Atalig is also running again for a council seat.

Accompanied by his wife, Orsini submitted his candidacy documents to the Commonwealth Election Commission office in Susupe yesterday before noon.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol said Atalig submitted his candidacy documents to CEC commissioner Leilani Manglona on Rota yesterday.

Orsini later said in a phone interview that he wants to finish what he started as a BOE member. Orsini said he will continue his previous campaign slogan: "A Better Education For A Better Economy."

"I'm still continuing that [slogan] as far as moving forward," he said. His four-year term as BOE member

expires in January 2023.

Orsini was elected BOE chairman in January 2021. In January 2022,

Gregory P. Borja was elected as the new BOE board chairman.

Orsini previously served as a mem-



CNMI Board of Education member Andrew L. Orsini shakes the hand of Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol after he filed his candidacy documents for his re-election yesterday at the CEC office in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COTA closed on Aug. 11 and 12

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's Call-A-Ride Saipan Demand Responsive Shared Ride Services and the COTA's Administrative Office will be closed on the following days for Professional Development.

■ Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022

■ Friday, Aug. 12, 2022

COTA's operational hours will resume on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022. We would like to remind our community to plan their trips accordingly. (PR)

Power service interruptions on Aug. 2, 4

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Aug. 2 and 4, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

TUESDAY, AUG. 2, 2022

■ Time: 9am to 1pm

■ Area(s) affected: Papago (portions of Papago Drive).
■ Purpose: To perform systems maintenance by replacing a rotted primary power pole along Papago Drive.

■ Circuit: Feeder 4

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Wastewater facility affected: None

THURSDAY, AUG. 4, 2022

■ Time: 9am to 1pm

■ Area(s) affected: Farallon Place on Capital Hill.

■ Purpose: To replace a burnt primary wooden power pole along Farallon Place on Capital

■ Circuit: Feeder 4

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Wastewater facility affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

BOOSTERS

From Page 1

next few months that will be specific to the omicron variant and therefore should be even more protective than the boosters that we've had before. More information from CHCC about that is coming," she said.

Muldoon explained that this new booster is specifically meant to combat the omicron variant, the variant from which BA.5 stems from.

"BA.5 is a lineage of the omicron variant, which is actually one of the most contagious viruses that we've seen so far. However, it is not the most deadly. That's why we're not seeing a high rate of hospitalizations as we had seen in previous surges," she said.

While the CNMI awaits the arrival of the new booster shots, Muldoon encourages everyone to remain proactive in ensuring that the CNMI does not jeopardize the health of the more vulnerable population as there still is COVID-19 in the community.

"Symptoms generally have been more mild than we were seeing previously with the delta variant, but still people are being wiped out, particularly if you are high risk for COVID-19. Meaning you have underlying medical conditions or you're elderly. We see the symptoms can be a lot worse and so we recommend for those of you who are high risk to make sure that you are masking up, getting tested if you develop any symptoms, and are also seeking treatment," she said.

Fortunately, Muldoon said, COVID-19 treatment is now available for those who may experience severe symptoms. The most common treatment provided is an antiviral drug called Paxlovid, she added.

"I really want to make clear that treatment options exist right now. We're trying to make it as easy as possible for you to be screened and treated quickly because treatment is important to get underway as soon as possible even when symptoms are mild," she said.

These treatments will only be pro-

vided once a positive COVID-19 test is reported and the individual is screened by a CHCC nurse.

"Once you make the phone call or fill out the online portal, you will be screened by a nurse to determine if you are high risk for COVID-19 and therefore are eligible for treatments. Criteria includes: older age (if you're older than 65), have ever been told by a doctor that you have high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease, kidney disease, or history of smoking are a few of the examples of people that are eligible for treatment. Then you will be recommended to get COVID-19 treatment as soon as possible and you will be sent to the medical care and treatment site," Muldoon said.

According to a previous *Saipan Tribune* article, the CNMI experienced a small surge in COVID-19 positive cases in the past two months, bringing the CNMI back up to COVID level medium. Fortunately, the number of cases continue to decrease as of last Friday.

ber of the Board of Regents at the University of Guam for four years. He was also a member of the Board of Regents at the Northern Marianas College for four years.

Igitol said there is one available seat for the BOE board in the Nov. 8 general election.

There are three available seats for Rota Municipal Council.

LAWSUIT

From Page 1

district court to dismiss the lawsuit filed by former CNMI representative Andrew S. Salas over the federal law banning cockfighting.

Ultimately, Walker said, Salas' legal theories about the power of U.S. Congress to prohibit cockfighting in the CNMI are meritless.

The defense added that the Animal Welfare Act and its amendments apply in the CNMI pursuant to Section 502(a)(2) of the Covenant, which specifies that all laws of general applicability in existence as of Jan. 9, 1978, and subsequent amendments to those laws, apply with equal force to the Northern Mariana Islands.

"But though the prohibition on cockfighting may have operated differently in different jurisdictions, it was still the law in each and every state and territory. And whatever may be said about the Animal Welfare Act's prior exception for cockfighting, there can be no doubt that the broader ban on other forms of animal fighting applied to and operated uniformly in all states and territories. Congress' amendment extending that ban to cockfighting in all jurisdictions therefore applies to the NMI," Walker said.

He argued that the federal govern-

ment has prohibited animal fighting in states and territories since 1976.

"Initially, these prohibitions exempted fights involving live birds (i.e., cockfights) in areas where such fights were legal under state or territorial law. Between 1976 and 2014, Congress progressively limited this exemption through various legislative actions before closing it altogether in 2018," Walker said.

"Plaintiff's complaint fails to state a claim that is supported by law and should be dismissed with prejudice," he added.

Salas filed a complaint with the U.S. District Court for the NMI against the United States of America over the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, specifically section 12616, which prohibited cockfighting in the CNMI.

Salas, through his lawyer, Joseph Horey, wants the court to issue a judgment declaring that a specific section of the Agriculture Improvement Act that effectively banned cockfighting in the CNMI is not applicable to or effective in the Northern Marianas.

Salas, who was a member of the 13th CNMI Legislature, also wants the court to issue an injunction prohibiting the United States and its agents from enforcing section 12616 of the AIA or 7 U.S.C. § 2156 in the Northern Mariana Islands.

commission's chairman.

Sablan mentioned at their last meeting that he was not interested in continuing his service as a commissioner for personal reason. However, since no commissioner wanted to be the chairperson, he was asked to reconsider.

Sablan said he was at a point of saying he would not going to continue, but CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol called him and told him what's going to transpire with the board without him. He said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres apparently is having a hard time finding somebody to join the CEC as commissioner. Sablan said nobody is willing to become a commissioner because of politics; the other factor is compensation.

"I'm not complaining, but \$60 a day is way too low," the chairman said.

He suggested that Igitol look into the compensation of commissioners and work with the Legislature on this. He did clarify, though, that this was not part of his reason why he initially thought about not continuing to serve as commissioner. He reiterated that it's for a personal reason.

Sablan said that, as he was mulling over his final decision in the matter, Igitol told him that the commission will be left with only five commissioners and that one commissioner is also going off-island. He said this prompted him to consult his wife and family and reconsider his decision. Torres then immediately re-nominated him as commissioner.

Sablan's four-year term as commissioner expired last July 21. The Senate confirmed Sablan's as well as Yatar's re-nomination the following day, July 22.

SABLAN

From Page 1

elected vice chairman.

It was Yatar who nominated Sablan, who is representing Saipan and Northern Islands, as chairman.

Commissioner Dorisann Aldan-Atalig, who is representing Saipan and the Northern Islands, declined to be nominated as vice chair for health reason and, instead, nominated Yatar for the position.

Sablan, 74, said that during their last board meeting, they tried to elect a chairman, but Atalig declined for health reasons.

Sablan said commissioner Jesus Cepeda declined because he's still new to the board, while the commissioners from Tinian and Rota believe that the chairman and vice chair should be from Saipan.

Sablan nominated Atalig as vice chair last Friday, but Atalig declined and, instead, nominated Yatar. Atalig said she just want to devote her time this year to getting her health back. Atalig said she's still traveling out of the Commonwealth every quarter for her health treatment.

"I don't feel comfortable. I can [however] continue in this capacity [as commissioner]," she said.

Atalig said if there is any upcoming event, Yatar may participate through Zoom or through any kinds of social platform.

Yatar said that she can take the nomination as vice chair, considering Atalig's health concerns.

Sablan said he appreciates the confidence that the commissioners are putting in him to continue as the

USCG, Marines, Palau partners trade best practices in exercise

KOROR, Palau—U.S. Coast Guard members and U.S. Marines participated in Koa Moana for a subject matter exchange alongside partners in Palau last July 26-28.

"This region is very dynamic, and the challenges cross multiple international and interagency jurisdictions. Exercises like this help us better understand each other and significantly promote interoperability ahead of a crisis," said Lt. Cmdr. Field Cassiano, U.S. Coast Guard liaison to the Republic of Palau. "We are excited and honored to share with and learn from our Palauan and U.S. Marine Corps friends."

The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Marines conducted a subject matter expert exchange on restraint devices, tactical approach, detainee contact, and underway boardings. Participants include the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Honolulu, U.S. Coast Guard Fourteenth District, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, and U.S. Marines with Task Force Koa Moana 22, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

This session highlights the common challenges in the region. Curbing illegal activities such as maritime crime and illegal, unrestricted, and unreported fishing within Oceania



Palauans with the Bureau of Maritime Security, U.S. Marines with Task Force Koa Moana 22, I Marine Expeditionary Force and U.S. Coast Guardsmen with the Maritime Safety and Security Team Honolulu, Fourteenth District, Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, pose for a photo after a boarding drill in Koror, Republic of Palau, July 26, 2022.

are critical goals of the joint maritime exercise.

"Over the course of this engagement, we reviewed policies and procedures with our Palauan partners to combine best practices involving defensive techniques and boarding tactics. These fundamental skills are critical to our collective maritime security duties at sea," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Bruce Duarte, a maritime enforcement specialist

with U.S. Coast Guard MSST Honolulu. "This engagement directly promotes our combined maritime security posture in the Indo-Pacific."

The exercise provides an opportunity to work side-by-side with partners to better synchronize and rehearse for potential real-world scenarios. Maritime security is critical to the overall stability of the Indo-Pacific. The Central Indo-Pacific includes the nu-

merous seas and straits which provide vital sea lines of communication connecting the Indian and Pacific oceans. These include the Philippine Sea, the north coast of Australia, and the seas surrounding New Guinea, western and central Micronesia, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Tonga. The central Indo-Pacific, due in part to its central location at the meeting

of two oceans, has an incredible richness and diversity of marine organisms.

The exchange offered members of the U.S. armed forces opportunities to learn from their Palauan counterparts. Building on this shared understanding of maritime law enforcement allows both sides to share knowledge and best practices to better both parties' tactics, techniques, and

procedures.

"One of the most important facets of this exercise is to continue to build relationships with our partners across the Pacific," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "It is imperative that we continue working together to leverage our resources to ensure maritime safety and security in the region. Having a baseline knowledge of each other's best practices allows us to work seamlessly when the need arises."

The U.S. Coast Guard regularly conducts operations with Palau, from joint patrols of the Philippine Sea and the Palauan Exclusive Economic Zone to assisting with aids to navigation and delivering supplies. Participating in exercise activities also enhances the interoperability necessary during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

Task Force Koa Moana aims to strengthen and enhance relationships between the U.S. and partner nations in the Indo-Pacific Region. The team has the unique opportunity and privilege of working with the Republic of Palau as a sign of U.S. commitment to the people of Palau and its partners and allies in the Indo-Pacific region. (USCG)

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars this August. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Aug. 4, 2022 – How to Register in SAM - Vendors need an active SAM registration to participate in Federal contracting. The Guam PTAC will take you through

the new registration process as well as the new annual renewal process.

■ Aug. 11, 2022 – Federal Contract Opportunities - SAM.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to use the website to ensure you do not miss any opportunities. Opportunity types, search filters, and search strategies will be discussed.

■ Aug. 18, 2022 – Marketing to the Federal Government - The government buys products and services differ-

ently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company noticed by government buyers.

■ Aug. 25, 2022 – Teaming & Joint Ventures - What are they and which is right for your business? The Guam PTAC will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.

To register, visit: <https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

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NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC AUCTIONS - SURPLUS EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting all individuals, firms, and recycling centers to three open public auctions of CPA's surplus equipment and materials. The list of surplus equipment and materials is available beginning August 5, 2022 for pick-up at the CPA Office of the Executive Director, which is located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Building, 2nd floor, or via email upon request.

Item Inspection: All items will be available for inspection beginning August 15, 2022 to August 26, 2022, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, business days only. Items located on Saipan may be inspected by contacting Mr. Dennis Cruz at telephone number (670) 237-6596 or (670) 483-4516. Items located on Rota may be inspected by contacting Mr. Albert Toves at telephone number (670) 285-8109 or (670) 532-9497. Items located on Tinian may be inspected by contacting Mr. Gerald Crisostomo at telephone number (670) 433-9294.

Auction Locations, Dates, and Times: The auctions will take place at the following locations, dates and times:

- Saipan: CPA Maintenance Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on September 1, 2022, beginning at 10:00 AM.
- Rota: CPA Maintenance Building, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on September 6, 2022, beginning at 10:30 AM.
- Tinian: CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport on September 9, 2022, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Terms and Conditions: All bidders submitting the highest itemized bid are required to pay 20% down payment on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at CPA's Accounting Office located on the 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, within five (5) business days from the date of the Public Auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check, credit card, or money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All items are sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" and without warranty, guaranty, or representation of any kind, expressed or implied, as to the merchantability or fitness for any purpose of the property offered for sale. Items offered for sale are used and may contain defects not immediately detectable.

All sold properties must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from date of payment, at owner's expense. CPA will not be responsible for said property after said specified time. The Buyer will make all arrangements and perform all work necessary, including packing, loading, and transportation of the property. No assistance will be provided. Upon removal of the property, all sales are final.

Any claim for misdescription of the purchased item must be made prior to removal of the property. If CPA confirms that the property does not conform to the description, CPA will keep the property and refund any money paid. The liability of CPA shall not exceed the actual purchase price of the property.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted for any reason set forth in this Public Auction Notice or as set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, including bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the Public Auction.

CPA assumes no liability for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids. Inquiries may be directed to the CPA Comptroller, Skye Hofschneider, via email at skye.hofschneider@cnmiports.com.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



Job Vacancy
Announcement

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Interested applicants submit resume and cover letter to
admin@mangocnmi.org

500 Sails grateful to partner with the people of Tinian

500 Sails extends its warmest thanks to the campers, counselors, and organizers of NMC-CREES' 4-H Camp Maga'lahi and the 22nd Tinian Legislative Delegation for a meaningful community outreach event at Tachogna Beach from July 19 to July 21.

On the morning and afternoon of July 20, JSM "Sanjo" Maras, Gabriel Erlet, Andrew Roberto, Uirom Park, and Sophia Gauran provided free canoe rides around Tinian's southern lagoon for over 40 Camp Maga'lahi Tinian campers. The sailors used the red-sailed canoe *Richard Seman* and spent hours launching from Tachogna's white sand, sailing around its crystal-clear water, switching passengers periodically.

500 Sails crew arrived on Tinian on July 19 after launching from the Guma Sakman in Susupe at 6am. Escort safety boat services were provided by Captain Larry Sharry aboard the *Weniol*. After a few hours of being on the ocean,

the crew of the *Richard Seman* landed on Tachogna beach and immediately made camp. They were very glad to have use of a canopy tent and picnic table from Kana Rental. Maras, Erlet, Roberto, and Park used Kana Rental's property, in addition to their own personal gear, while camping at Tachogna Beach for the duration of the outreach event.

"Tinian is always a great place to sail," said Roberto, the nonprofit's director of Community Programs. "Seeing the campers' faces light up with enjoyment is probably the most fulfilling part of partnering with Camp Maga'lahi. It's a highlight of our year to cross the channel over to San Jose to meet up with our friends and passengers on Tinian."

Roberto added that not only is it worthwhile to sail to Tinian as an outreach event, crossing the Saipan-Tinian Channel also is an opportunity for 500 Sails *lalayak* and charter sailors to gain bluewater

sailing experience, supporting the organization's mission of Micronesian revival of maritime culture. This most recent bluewater sail was supported by the Voyaging tract of the Cultural Maritime Training Center and augments the *Lalayak* training that Gauran and Roberto received from prior years of volunteering with the organization. The *Lalayak* program is an introductory sailing class focusing on using Chamorro canoes, while the CMTC provides job training and professional development opportunities to prepare native jobseekers for successful entry into maritime professions.

The outreach event even served as an opportunity to train Park in canoe sailing. Park was initially brought to Tinian for lifeguard duties, but was granted a chance to assist onboard *Richard Seman* during Camp Maga'lahi.

Maras and Erlet are veteran seamen who supervised the overall seaworthiness of

the crew and canoe during all three days of sailing. They ensured that the vessel was safe and comfortable for passengers, and instructed the crew in techniques to safely sail in the lagoon and open ocean.

At the conclusion of their outreach responsibilities, 500 Sails crew left Tachogna Beach around 7am on July 21, sailing successfully back to Guma Sakman in time for lunch.

Roberto said that support

from the 22nd Tinian Legislative Delegation played a large role in the success of this outreach event.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz provided funds for canopy tent and car rental; Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider provided funds for a hotel room; Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas funded camp supplies and food; and Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors funded the fuel for the escort boat.

Juan Atalig, a private resident of San Jose, Tinian, also receives the warm thanks of the 500 Sails crew for the dinner he cooked for them on the

night of July 20.

Joan Flores, extension aide for the Family, Community, & Youth Development Program of NMC-CREES Tinian, also gets a special thanks for partnering with 500 Sails for this event. Captain Larry Sharry's escort boat service is greatly appreciated by all of 500 Sails, Inc., as is CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management for monitoring of the float plan. 500 Sails also thanks the wives, husbands, parents, and other family members who support its *lalayak* and charter crew. (500 Sails)

Two more NMC graduates pass NCLEX

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Avelyne Alvarez and Cheng Shao have joined the long list of NMC graduates who have passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

"It's great to see more and more NMC nursing graduates pass the challenging NCLEX-RN," NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD said. "I congratulate Avelyne and Cheng on this accomplishment."

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan also congratulated the two on their achievements.

"Avelyne and Cheng have bright futures in the nurs-

ing field and we expect to see great things from them as their educational and professional journeys continue," Aldan said.

Alvarez stated she wanted to pursue a career in nursing so that she could promote health and healing for others during difficult times. She attributes her success in the nursing program to her family's support.

"I owe it all to my family's constant, unparalleled support, both emotionally and financially, throughout my entire educational journey," Alvarez said.

According to Alvarez, NMC also gave her the resources and support she needed to pass the NCLEX. "The guidance, knowledge, and encouragement I received from my instructors also played a vital part in helping me step out into the field of nursing with confidence and a sense of

pride," she said.

Alvarez advises all students who plan to take the exam to always trust in themselves. "There is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to passing the NCLEX," Alvarez said. "As daunting as it may sound, facing the unimaginable is possible. Progress cannot be made if you continue to dwell in self-doubt and uncertainty."

Shao shared the same sentiments. "Make a study plan, and stick with it no matter what," Shao said.

As for the test preparation, Shao added that his instructors also played a big role in helping him prepare. "NMC's comprehensive NCLEX review and the Kaplan review program prepared me for the exam," Shao said. "Discipline also played a big role as well."

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call 237-6744. (PR)



Alvarez



Shao



500 SAILS

On the morning and afternoon of July 20, 500 Sails provided free canoe rides around Tinian's southern lagoon for over 40 Camp Maga'lahi Tinian campers. The sailors used the red-sailed canoe *Richard Seman* and spent hours launching from Tachogna's white sand, sailing around its crystal-clear water, switching passengers periodically.

Julie Ogo joins Rota representative race

Long-time sales representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo is throwing her hat into the CNMI's political landscape. Last July 29, accompanied by family and supporters, Ogo submitted her candidacy

documents to the Commonwealth Election Commission via board member Leilani I. Manglona on Rota. With this, Rota is looking at a three-way contest for the House of Representatives seat.

When asked why she is running for elected office, Ogo said her decision is deeply rooted in her upbringing. "Being raised by a family with a history of public service comes naturally. My adopted

mother or in Chamorro *pineksain nana*—Bernadita Atalig Manglona—although never officially holding public service, was known as Rota's longest first lady. ...[She] was the foundation of our family. She always gave what she could to those that needed help. She

instilled in us her children the importance of civic duty and the need to take an active role in philanthropic activities."

Ogo said this desire to serve was expected as she emphasized how fortunate she is by having her family overwhelmingly support her decision to enter public service.

When asked what she intends to do in office, Ogo emphasized the need for infrastructure development using Capital Improvement Project funding as one of the key areas she would like to focus on.

"Building a house on Rota today requires our people to ship in manufactured sand and gravel for instance because our population is so small [that] vendors find it difficult to cost-effectively carry stock locally. Building a home on Rota is nearly impossible for the average citizen as such goods require off-island purchases. Our

community cannot expand like this so we must find possible solutions," she said. "Having large government infrastructure projects in place will encourage vendors to maintain such goods as there [will be] an increased demand." According to Ogo, this is only one of the many different issues that need the public sector's attention. Other such pressing topics include finding adequate funding to assist Medical Referral and increasing tourism-related activities on the island, to name a few.

Ogo is running as an independent candidate and vows to work with the others comprising the Rota Legislative Delegation if successful.

"The only interest I have is our community's interest and I will go across party lines if the bill is logical and carries a benefit to our people," Ogo said, adding that she views this endeavor as a job interview. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julie Marie Atalig Ogo, center, is joined by family and supporters after submitting her candidacy documents to the Commonwealth Election Commission last July 29 on Rota.

US seeks to expand ties with New Zealand amid China worries

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The commander of the United States military in the Pacific said Monday he wants to expand and strengthen its ties with New Zealand.

The visit to Wellington by Adm. John Aquilino, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, comes as the U.S. is looking to increase its presence in the region amid deep concerns over China's growing ambitions in the Pacific.

Aquilino was greeted with a traditional Māori welcome ceremony and laid a wreath at the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. He spoke briefly to media ahead of meetings with top New Zealand defense force and government officials.

"Our partnership runs very deep," Aquilino said. "We are doing many things together to continue to ensure peace and prosperity for both of our nations and for all the nations in the region."

Aquilino said he wanted to identify new areas where the



Adm. John Aquilino, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command commander, speaks at a news conference at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, on June 30, 2022.

U.S. could work with New Zealand. He said the leadership of Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific was "critically important."

"The one thing you will never hear out of me is big or small. This is a partnership," Aquilino said. "All nations deliver those things that they can deliver."

He said the U.S. understood the security implications of climate change in Pacific island nations, including for food security and water security, and the importance for island nations to be able to fish in exclusive zones.

"The United States has been a Pacific nation our entire life. We will continue to operate in the Pacific no matter what else you might hear," Aquilino said.

Air Marshal Kevin Short, chief of New Zealand's defense force, said the relationship with the U.S. had been strong for decades, and it regularly interacts with U.S. forces so they can both operate better in the region.

6 recent MCS graduates earn admission to UMBC, UNLV, UW, and UW-Madison

Recent Mount Carmel School graduates Victoria Parnes Ancheta, William Nathaniel Espeleta Año, Yu Jeong Son, Joshua Donovan Camacho Tenorio, Aleia Carlinne Hofschneider Santos, and Christian Felix Cabrera Guerrero gained admission to each of their respective colleges for their undergraduate education.

Pursuing a degree in chemistry, Ancheta has committed to the University of Baltimore Maryland County. "I chose UMBC because it prioritizes research and there are a lot of international collaboration opportunities. My goal is to collaborate with published scientists, get into medical school, and hopefully become a cardiothoracic surgeon to help others," Ancheta said.

Class of 2022 graduates Año, Son, and Tenorio will be attending the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Due to the diverse population of students, partnership with the Western Undergraduate Exchange, or WUE, and academic programs Año said, "There were several factors that influenced my choice of college. The main reasons include that UNLV is a participating university in the Western Undergraduate Exchange, or WUE, program which, makes it a cost-effective choice. It has a diverse population of students with Tagalog being one of the most-spoken second languages. Lastly, it has a robust computer science program, which is my intended field of study." The decision to attend UNLV was more personal for Tenorio. "I chose UNLV because I grew up wanting to go there. I was born in Las Vegas, so I always considered it a second home. Going to UNLV just felt like the right choice for me," he said.



Aleia Carlinne Hofschneider Santos



Christian Felix Cabrera Guerrero



William Nathaniel Espeleta Año



Yu Jeong Son



Joshua Donovan Camacho Tenorio



Victoria Parnes Ancheta

Like Año, Tenorio intends to study computer science.

Santos, who is MCS' newest valedictorian, will be attending the

University of Washington this fall. Passionate about helping her community, Santos shared her commitment to studying public health so she can help the CNMI public health system. "While I am extremely grateful for my chance to be a student at a top-ranked STEM school, I am most excited about being near my family and friends in Washington. At the UW, I'll be able to further my education, meet new people, and make memories all at once. I am confident that my time at the UW will equip me with the skills needed to come back to the CNMI and improve the healthcare of our community as a whole," she said.

Joining the ranks of the Badgers is Guerrero, who will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison at the College of Letters and Science. Eager to start his new academic journey, Guerrero said, "The University of Wisconsin-Madison was not initially on my list, but after further research, I discovered the countless resources and opportunities that the [university] had to offer pertaining to my field

of interest—computer science. The Midwest is also a region of the U.S. that I wish to live in and explore. I cannot wait to experience the Badger way of life, engage with like-minded individuals, and learn from enthusiastic professors."

Despite the community impact of Super Typhoon Soundelor, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the COVID-19 pandemic, Mount Carmel School continues to strengthen its college preparatory program in order to support its graduate's academic and professional endeavors. In addition to rigorous academic programs, Mount Carmel School prioritizes its student's access to varying extracurricular activities, apostolic programs, and community service opportunities.

While slots are limited for specific grade levels, Mount Carmel School is still accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. For more information about Mount Carmel School and its college preparatory programs, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Closing the electoral loopholes that inspired the Capitol insurrection

The House select committee hearings into the Capitol insurrection have established two facts virtually beyond debate: One, former President Donald Trump is culpable for what his followers did that day in support of his unprecedented attempt to overthrow a valid election. And, two, Trump's scheme was aided by deep flaws in the federal statutes guiding the process of counting and certifying electoral votes.

The second issue, at least, now has a fix in sight. A bipartisan group of senators has unveiled legislation that will make it more difficult for future presidents to engage in the kind of anti-democratic mischief that Trump did, with rational and even-handed changes to current law. In a real sense, members of Congress voting on this will be making a choice between safeguarding democracy or defending Trump's attempted coup—and risking an encore.

The new legislation overhauls a poorly drafted, 19th-century law governing the certification of elections and makes other changes to repair weaknesses that Trump exploited. It specifies that the vice president's role in the process is purely ceremonial, so future sitting presidents can't claim, as Trump did, that their vice presidents have the power to simply set aside the voters' decision.

The bill would make it more difficult for members of Congress to object to states' electoral slates, upping the current threshold of one objector each in the House and Senate to one-fifth of members in each chamber. Under the current system, Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley's announcement in the days before Jan. 6, 2021, that he planned to object to some of the results—the first senator to make such an announcement—was in itself enough to set up the floor debate that helped inspire the rioters. A higher bar for objections could well have averted the whole thing.

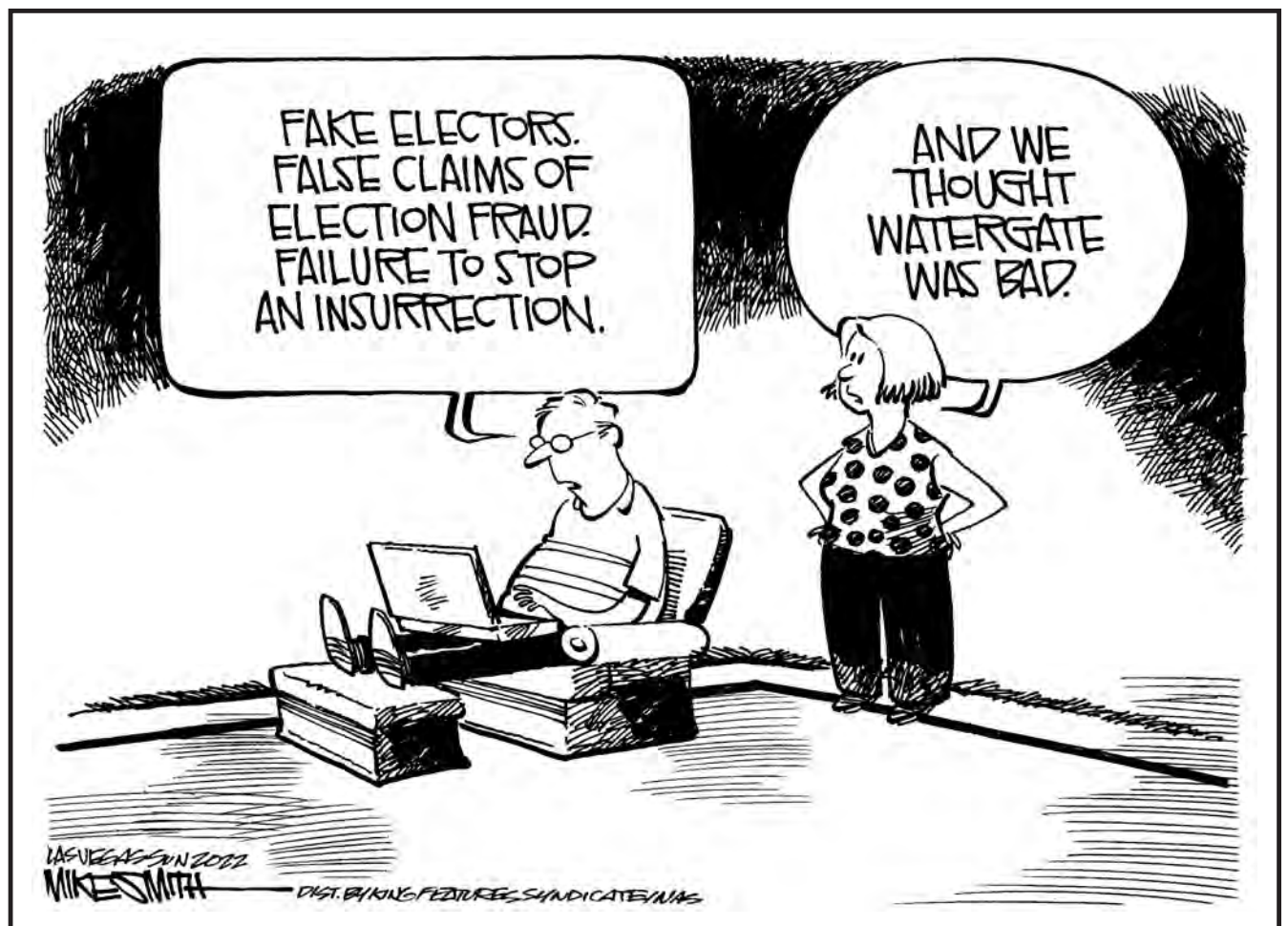
The reform package would also require states to appoint their electors as prescribed by their own state laws, without any possibility of changing the rules after Election Day, as Trump and his backers tried to get Republicans in key states to do after the 2020 election.

The measure isn't a cure-all. It doesn't, for example, prevent states from changing their laws before Election Day to make it easier for legislatures to bypass the will of the people, which some red states are currently trying to do.

Preventing that kind of undermining of democracy with a federal law would require more federal intrusion into state laws than most congressional Republicans are likely to agree to, and Republican votes are needed in the Senate to pass this. Ultimately, only voters in individual states can stop their leaders from rigging elections in advance.

But this measure would, at least, prevent future Trumpian attempts to overthrow them afterward. Every congressional vote against it should be viewed as a vote against democracy.

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Veterans become political pawns

It was four in the afternoon on March 10, 1991, when the first planned explosion of Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons went off at the U.S. weapons depot in Khamisiyah, Iraq, and the first gray-white smoke cloud that would come to be called The Plume wafted skyward and drifted over the troops. There would be many blasts that day.

Bill Florey, a young and proud-to-serve E4 Specialist, had just parked his truck after a day's work.

Francesca Yabraian, who would become his friend and would fight the losing battle to save his life (at a time when it seemed horribly clear the Department of Veterans Affairs wasn't), was just a student half-a-world away. She was in Dallas on that day.

Pat Toomey was also half-a-world away on March 10, 1991. Pennsylvania's future Republican senator was all into the rich expectations of his first career (in international currency swap transactions and derivatives) when his hopes were shaken. Deutsche Bank acquired the London-based investment bank where he worked, and he didn't know what to expect. So, he returned to Allentown, Pennsylvania, and began a career rich with a different sort of expectations: politics.

What Toomey couldn't know back then was that, in the summer of 2022, he'd be in a position to shake up the hopes and expectations of thousands who also served in Iraq with the same pride Bill Florey felt on that 1991 day.

Florey was Yabraian's friend and work colleague when she became concerned about the bump near his right temple that seemed to be growing. His VA doctor said it was just an infection and injected penicillin. It kept growing. So she went to the VA with him and told the VA doctor Florey had to get an MRI that day or they'd have to drag her out! Florey got his MRI. It showed a tumor had penetrated into his brain.

Next it became a problem Washington actually should have solved. The VA denied Florey benefits for a service-related injury, claiming it was "less likely than not" that his cancer was caused by The Plume from Saddam's chemical weapons. Then Yabraian contacted me about her friend's plight. It turned out a VA study showed it was actually TWICE as likely as not that Florey's cancer came from exposure to Saddam's exploded chemical warheads.

Bill Florey died on New Year's Day, 2005, before the VA could grant him the benefits he'd earned. And the VA's bureaucratic rules were that when military personnel die, their unpaid claim for compensation owed dies with them. His tragic story became the beginning of my 2008 book, "Vets Under Siege: How America Deceives and Dishonors Those Who Fight Our Battles," published by Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Press.

Sadly, "Vets Under Siege" told many similar tragic tales. But it also proposed solutions; and other investigations and hearings produced many more. One was the Vietnam War-era reform in

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



which the VA began assuming all who served in Vietnam are now presumed to have been exposed to the dangerous defoliation chemical Agent Orange. Vietnam War veterans no longer have to prove they were exposed to Agent Orange to get benefits for illnesses the chemical is known to cause.

And this summer, a new veterans reform bill was being approved with overwhelming bipartisan Senate and House support that assumed that all who were in Iraq—and who suffered cancers or other illnesses known to be caused by Iraq's chemical weapons—would be presumed to have been exposed to plumes from what the military now calls its "burn pits."

But suddenly on Wednesday 25 Republican senators reversed their earlier "yes" votes and blocked final passage of that veterans' care reform bill—just weeks after they'd joined Democrats in approving the bill with 84 votes.

Now Sen. Pat Toomey enters our story. In June, Toomey had objected to an accounting procedure for \$400 billion that was in the original bill the Senate had passed and sent to the House. On Wednesday, Toomey resurfaced his objection as a reason to block the bill Republicans had already decisively supported. This time, only 55 senators voted yes; but 60 are needed to prevent a filibuster.

Why did Republicans suddenly switch from yes to no? Democrats charged that for Republicans it was just political spite. Democrats gave President Joe Biden a major victory on a spending bill compromise this week, and they say Republicans didn't want to give Biden a win on veterans' care reform too. Toomey, of course, quickly denied that.

But Thursday, The Washington Post reported that the Senate's No.2 Republican leader, Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, said this veterans' bill vote was "separate" from the overall spending deal, but conceded, about the spending compromise, "obviously it doesn't help."

And so it goes in this city. Today, many thousands of military veterans who are suffering from the same exposure that killed Bill Florey are coping with their latest reality: While it is nice when Republicans sincerely thank them for their service, "obviously it doesn't help" them as they struggle to pay their medical bills and survive.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reality's revenge: The return of stagflation

The clinical psychologist Jordan Peterson has said that you can bend reality only so far before it snaps back at you. In short, bad actions always ultimately have negative consequences.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Will we still get the Retirement Fund balance due us?

Dear Ferdie de la Torre: Your work for the benefit of those whose lives were torn apart by the reduction in benefits is amazing. The retirement community is fortunate to have such a great champion for the rights of survivors and their beneficiaries. I want you to know the continuity of information distributed and made public by the Saipan Tribune and other very brave members of the Marianas press corps, including the Marianas Variety and contributors, merits a Pulitzer Prize in my opinion for everyone who showed their care and support for the elders. I just have one question:

Will survivors, who are bona fide beneficiaries of the Retirement Fund, be paid the balance due along with the other survivors? I experienced the loss of both my parents and have endured tremendous heartbreak and hardship as a result of the failure to have the amount promised in the original or modified retirement disbursement.

Presently my roof is leaking through the attic all the way to the basement. My house was facing foreclosure, which is quite traumatizing. I have no health insurance, my aunt for whom I am caregiver is having surgery and I drive a 19-year-old car. I left my job and apartment to care for my parents, secure in the knowledge that my father's life insurance would provide me for predictable expenses over a certain period of time, which was also to cover my return to the job market in the District of Columbia. I am the sole beneficiary and waited months and months for [*Saipan Tribune* opts to withhold the name for now] to respond to me. There were many delays and many ignored attempts to reach him.

I believe I merit this balance of 25% as I certainly could never have believed such atrocity to deprive the elders by the misappropriation of their funds and breach of trust cause trauma for so many sick and elderly people who spent years of their lives contributing to the advancement of economic conditions for the people of the Northern Marianas Islands, whom our family grew to love very much.

What many people do not know is that my father suffered a mild stroke when he heard the news. My mother had cancer. For some time we did not want his vulnerability to be exposed. He did maintain all the correspondence and information, which suddenly ceased due to the laziness or disinterest of a specific person at the Retirement Fund in fulfilling his obligation to reply to insurance-related issues, which he did after considerable delay.

Please publish my letter. I believe people should know I continue to await a final reply whether I will be able to obtain necessary repairs to my house and car and very serious dental issues. There are others in my position equally lost concerning where to write, to whom any physical mail can be addressed. I never have any correspondence from anyone in the court or the Retirement Fund informing me of progress. Without your news there are very limited avenues for information.

After the passing of my parents I needed an attorney, is specific person could have replied sooner and saved me the money, which I needed. My aunt and I went to food banks, borrowed from a church and sold our possessions to live.

I cannot locate an email address for those people who are active in advocates for the Fund. Many of the addresses in the account maintained by my family, SaipanStewart@aol.com, have changed. Could you please publish? I can be contacted at (681) 328-1327 voice mail or KathrynStewartMcDonald@hotmail.com. If anyone has a good contact for other retirees, please let them know I need information.

My love to Uncle Dave Sablan and his kind and gracious family.

Kathryn Stewart McDonald

1201 Larchwood Rd.
Chas West Virginia 25314

America is living through the economic equivalent of this principle right now. For a year and a half, the federal government has spent, borrowed and printed trillions of dollars while simultaneously pursuing an anti-energy agenda. The result is stagflation.

The term stagflation—first coined during the economic doldrums of the 1970s—refers to the combination of stagnant economic growth and inflation, both of which are afflicting the American economy today. The economy shrank in the first three months of the year, and did so again in the second quarter.

On top of that, inflation is at the highest rate in four decades, and prices are rising about as fast in a single month as they used to in an entire year when President Joe Biden first took office.

The inflationary fire has been fueled by Federal Reserve creating money for Congress' and the president's profligate spending sprees. Although these institutions repeatedly asserted that inflation was nothing to worry about or merely transitory, reality is not conforming to their assertions. You cannot create trillions of dollars out of nothing and expect no negative consequences.

Energy prices in particular have exploded since Biden took office due in large measure to his war on domestic energy, like coal, oil and natural gas. This should come as no surprise, since Biden promised during his campaign to be the death knell of fossil fuels. From canceling pipelines and drilling leases to expanding regulations, the White House has chilled investment and production in these industries, driving up prices for consumers, especially at the pump.

And because energy affects everything we do and everything we buy, those high energy prices are now trickling down into the price of everything else. In short, this anti-energy agenda is increasing costs of production across the economy, and that is a recipe for slower growth.

This economic one-two punch to the middle class has led the White House to pursue a strategy of damage control. Instead of doing a mea culpa and changing course, the Biden administration is doubling down and playing word games.

Alarming new study shows it's time to get serious about eating better

Fewer than 7% of Americans are in excellent cardiometabolic health, which is measured by evaluating a person's weight, blood pressure, blood sugar, blood cholesterol levels and signs of heart disease.

Tufts University researchers came to this sobering conclusion after assessing 55,000 people older than 20 between 1999 and 2018. The study's lead author, Meghan O'Hearn, says it's "deeply problematic" that fewer than 1 in 15 adults in one of the wealthiest nations in the world is in optimal cardiometabolic health. Not surprisingly, factors such as economic instability and systemic discrimination are linked to a higher risk of health problems.

A similar study, involving American Heart Association (AHA) metrics—eating habits, physical activity, nicotine exposure, sleep duration, body mass and blood composition—shows that only 1 in 5 Americans have healthy hearts.

This is terrible news, but there is a solution. Eating wholesome vegan foods instead of animal-derived ones can improve one's overall health, including most, if not all, of the conditions evaluated by Tufts and the AHA.

Fruit, vegetables, grain, legumes and other vegan foods are cholesterol-free and high in fiber and other important nutrients. They're also generally low in saturated fat, which is linked to viscous (thick) blood and high blood pressure. If you eat animal fat, you may have thicker blood, so your heart has to push harder just to keep the blood flowing.

When scientists with the University of Warwick in the U.K. compared seven different eating plans, they found that eating primarily vegan foods is the best way to lower blood pressure, which is thought to be the No. 1 factor in strokes, heart attacks and other cardiovascular events. The researchers concluded that sticking with vegan foods could prevent nearly 5 million premature deaths a year.

By E. J. ANTONI

The Heritage Foundation

E. J. Antoni is a Research Fellow for Regional Economics in the Center for Data Analysis at The Heritage Foundation and a senior fellow at Committee to Unleash Prosperity.



The latest sleight of hand by the Biden administration is to redefine a recession. But that just adds insult to injury for a hurting middle class who have been made demonstrably poorer by impolitic government policies.

Nevertheless, American families are not fooled; they are well aware of the financial pain they've been experiencing over the last 18 months. Their incomes have fallen relative to prices, and more than half no longer have an adequate emergency fund, while a quarter have none at all. The amount families are able to save from month to month has collapsed, while household debt is growing.

This reality is all painfully apparent to the American middle class. They're living it every day and do not need a government bureau to tell them that economic growth has stagnated while prices maintain their vertiginous climb. Those of us who regularly go to grocery stores and gas stations have seen inflation with our own eyes—and felt it in our own wallets. But it speaks to the isolation of Washington bureaucrats that they are surprised when inflation reports are high or economic growth indicators are low.

The average American knows that stagflation is here. They are hurting from the hidden tax of inflation, sky-high energy prices, unaffordable housing and slow growth. It doesn't take an official determination from on high to declare that we are in a recession for everyone to realize the economy is headed in the wrong direction. Biden would be wise to reverse course immediately because not he, nor anyone else, can cheat reality.

By HEATHER MOORE

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Heather Moore is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510; PETA.org.



According to vegan cardiologist Dr. Joel K. Kahn, author of "Dead Execs Don't Get Bonuses," between 80% and 90% of chronic health problems, including heart disease, can be prevented by exercising, refraining from smoking, getting enough sleep, managing stress and—most importantly—eating exclusively nutritious vegan foods.

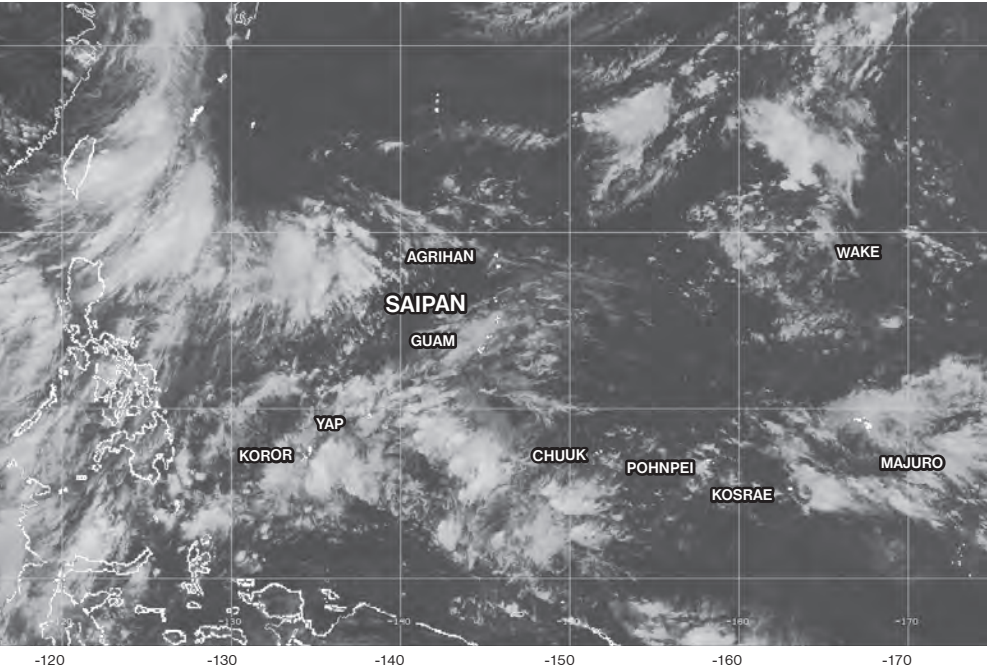
But choosing vegan foods over animal-based ones will not just improve your health—it will likely help you save money, too. Vegan foods tend to cost less, especially when you factor in the money you'll save on hospital bills, medications and other health care costs by avoiding artery-clogging animal-based foods.

Not only that, but eating vegan foods instead of meat, eggs and dairy can help combat the climate catastrophe, conserve much-needed resources and, best of all, save lots of animals. It's a win-win situation!

PETA is working to make wholesome, affordable, versatile vegan foods available everywhere, including in food deserts. You can make a difference in your community by purchasing and enjoying healthy vegan foods and encouraging your family and friends to do the same.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Isolated showers. Partly cloudy		Isolated showers. Partly cloudy		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
86°	78°	87°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:43 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trades prevail in the Marianas today, with satellite imagery indicating partly cloudy skies and pleasant weather. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are between 3 and 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:27 AM	9:54 PM	-
Wednesday	10:16 AM	10:31 PM	-
Thursday	11:07 AM	11:09 PM	-
Friday	12:01 PM	11:51 PM	-
Saturday	12:58 PM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	60° / 52°	
Beijing	Sunny	97° / 78°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	92° / 83°	
Honolulu	Showers	84° / 74°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 65°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	84° / 65°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°	
Miami	Showers	88° / 81°	
New York	Cloudy	80° / 74°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	95° / 81°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	89° / 66°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	98° / 72°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	69° / 57°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	97° / 82°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	89° / 74°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:50 AM	Low Tide	1.15	
9:47 AM	High Tide	1.85	
4:41 PM	Low Tide	0.35	
11:20 PM	High Tide	2.01	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA						SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily	1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN						TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM						TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA						2110 <td>TINIAN</td> <td>SAIPAN</td> <td>16:30</td> <td>16:45</td> <td>Daily</td>	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	2111 <td>TINIAN</td> <td>SAIPAN</td> <td>17:30</td> <td>17:45</td> <td>Daily</td>	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri						

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Business

In race for monkeypox vaccines, experts see repeat of COVID

LONDON (AP)—Moves by rich countries to buy large quantities of monkeypox vaccine, while declining to share doses with Africa, could leave millions of people unprotected against a more dangerous version of the disease and risk continued spillovers of the virus into humans, public health officials are warning.

Critics fear a repeat of the catastrophic inequity problems seen during the coronavirus pandemic.

“The mistakes we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic are already being repeated,” said Dr. Boghuma Kabisen Titanji, an assistant professor of medicine at Emory University.

While rich countries have ordered millions of vaccines to stop monkeypox within their borders, none have announced plans to share doses with Africa, where a more lethal form of monkeypox is spreading than in the West.

To date, there have been more



AP
A health professional prepares a dose of a Monkeypox vaccine at the Edison municipal vaccination centre in Paris Wednesday July 27, 2022.

versations about the global response,” Titanji said.

Scientists say that, unlike campaigns to stop COVID-19, mass vaccinations against monkeypox won't be necessary. They think targeted use of the available doses, along with other measures, could shut down the expanding epidemics that were recently designated by the World Health Organization as a global health emergency.

Yet while monkeypox is much harder to spread than COVID-19, experts warn if the disease spills over into general populations—currently in Europe and North America it is circulating almost exclusively among gay and bisexual men—the need for vaccines could intensify, especially if the virus becomes entrenched in new regions.

On Thursday, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called for the continent to be prioritized for vaccines, saying it was again being left behind.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Alex Jones' media company files for bankruptcy amid trial

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones' media company Free Speech Systems filed for bankruptcy on Friday, but his attorney said it should not disrupt the defamation damages trial underway in Texas that seeks to force Jones to pay \$150 million or more to the family of one of the children killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School attack. The trial in Austin, where Jones lives and Free Speech Systems is based, wrapped up its first week of testimony Friday and is expected to conclude next week. The bankruptcy filing was announced by Jones' attorney Andino Reynal late in the day. Reynal and attorneys for the family suing Jones told Judge Maya Guerra Gamble that the bankruptcy filing would not halt the lawsuit. The company wants “to put this part of the odyssey behind us so that we have some numbers” set for damages, Reynal said.

FAA clears Boeing to resume delivery of 787 Dreamliners

Boeing has cleared a key hurdle with federal regulators and could soon resume deliveries of its large 787 airliner, which has been plagued by a series of production issues since late 2020, a person familiar with the matter said Saturday. The Federal Aviation Administration no-

tified Boeing on Friday that it would approve the company's process for validating fixes to each plane before they are delivered to airline customers, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a decision that has not been publicly announced. The FAA declined to comment and referred inquiries to Boeing. In a statement, Boeing said only, “We will continue to work transparently with the FAA and our customers towards resuming 787 deliveries.” Approval to resume deliveries would be a boost for Boeing, which collects a big chunk of each plane's purchase price at delivery. Boeing has accumulated a backlog of about 120 undelivered 787s. The plane, which Boeing calls the Dreamliner, lists at \$248 million to \$338 million depending on size, although airlines pay far less than sticker price. (AP)

Pilots with Germany's Lufthansa back possible strike action

BERLIN (AP)—Pilots with Germany's Lufthansa have voted in favor of possible strike action, a union announced Sunday, saying that walkouts can still be avoided but calling the result an “unmistakable signal” to the company in a pay dispute. The Vereinigung Cockpit union is calling for a 5.5% pay increase this year and an automatic adjustment for inflation starting next year. It has

argued that Lufthansa hasn't yet made a negotiable offer in six rounds of talks. The union said that 97.6% of pilots who took part in a ballot approved its call. It said in statement that the vote “doesn't yet necessarily lead to strike measures, but it is an unmistakable signal to Lufthansa to take the cockpit staff's needs seriously.” The dispute comes on top of a separate altercation with a union representing Lufthansa ground staff in Germany. A one-day strike on Wednesday in that standoff led to the cancellation of over 1,000 flights.

Russian energy corporation Gazprom cuts off gas to Latvia

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's state-owned natural gas corporation said Saturday it has halted shipments to Latvia because of contract violations. In a brief statement, gas giant Gazprom said the shipments were stopped because Latvia broke “terms for extraction of gas.” It did not elaborate. The statement likely referred to a refusal to meet Russia's demand for gas payments in rubles rather than other currencies. Gazprom previously suspended shipments to other European Union countries, including the Netherlands, Poland and Bulgaria, because they would not pay in rubles. The immediate effects of the cutoff were not clear. Latvian media reported this week that the country had resumed buying Russian gas from another supplier.

than 22,000 monkeypox cases reported in nearly 80 countries since May, with about 75 suspected deaths in Africa, mostly in Nigeria and Congo. On Friday, Brazil and Spain reported deaths linked to monkeypox,

the first reported outside Africa. Spain reported a second monkeypox death Saturday.

“The African countries dealing with monkeypox outbreaks for decades have been relegated to a footnote in con-

Chinese factory activity sinks, weighing on weak economy

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese manufacturing's recovery from anti-virus shutdowns faltered in July as activity sank, a survey showed Sunday, adding to pressure on the struggling economy in a politically sensitive year when President Xi Jinping is expected to try to extend his time in power.

Factory activity was depressed by weak global demand and anti-virus controls that are weighing on domestic consumer spending, according to the national statistics agency and an official industry group, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing.

A monthly purchasing managers' index issued by the Federation and the National Bureau of Statistics retreated to 49 from June's 50.2 on a 100-point scale on which

numbers below 50 indicate activity declining. Sub-measures of new orders, exports and employment declined.

“Downward pressure is great,” said economist Zhang Lique in a statement issued by the Federation. “The impact of the epidemic is still on the rise.”

The ruling Communist Party has stopped talking about this year's official economic growth target of 5.5% after output shrank in the three months ending in June compared with the previous quarter.

The slowdown, which raises the risk of politically volatile job losses, adds to challenges for Beijing ahead of a ruling party meeting in October or November when Xi is expected to try to break with tradition and award himself a third five-year term as party leader.

Banana Boat recalls scalp sunscreen spray for cancer risk

The maker of Banana Boat sunscreen is recalling a scalp spray because it contains trace amounts of benzene, a chemical which can cause cancer with repeated exposure.

Edgewell Personal Care Co. announced the voluntary recall Friday. It said benzene was detected in internal reviews of Banana Boat Hair and Scalp Spray SPF 30.

Three batches of the spray are included in the recall, with

lot codes 20016AF, 20084BF and 21139AF. Edgewell said no other batches of this spray, and no other Banana Boat products, are included in the recall.

Edgewell didn't say how many cans it is recalling. The Associated Press left a message with the company seeking comment.

Shelton, Connecticut-based Edgewell said it hasn't received any reports of adverse events related to the recall.

The company has directed retailers to remove the spray from their shelves. It's also offering to reimburse customers who have already bought the product.

The recall comes a little over a year after Johnson & Johnson recalled five sunscreens because they were found to contain benzene. That recall included Aveeno and Neutrogena products in aerosol cans. (AP)

Nation

Western flames spread, California sees its largest 2022 fire

YREKA, Calif. (AP)—Crews battling the largest wildfire so far this year in California braced for thunderstorms and hot, windy conditions that created the potential for additional fire growth Sunday as they sought to protect remote communities.

The McKinney Fire was burning out of control in Northern California's Klamath National Forest, with expected thunderstorms a big concern Sunday just south of the Oregon state line, said U.S. Forest Service spokesperson Adrienne Freeman.

"The fuel beds are so dry and they can just erupt from that lightning," Freeman said. "These thunder cells come with gusty erratic winds that can blow fire in every direction."

The blaze exploded in size to more than 80 square miles (207 square km) just two days after erupting in a largely unpopulated area of Siskiyou County, according to a Sunday incident report. The cause was under investigation.

The blaze torched trees along California Highway 96, and the scorched remains of a pickup truck sat in a lane



A firetruck drives along California Highway 96 as the McKinney Fire burns in Klamath National Forest, Calif., Saturday, July 30, 2022.

of the highway. Thick smoke covered the area and flames burned through hillsides in sight of homes. The fire Sunday cast an eerie, orange-brown hue, in one neighbor-

hood where a brick chimney stood surrounded by rubble and scorched vehicles.

A second, smaller fire just to the west that was sparked by dry lightning Saturday

threatened the tiny town of Seiad, Freeman said. About 400 structures were under threat from the two California fires. Authorities have not confirmed the extent of the dam-

age yet, saying assessments would begin when it was safe to reach the area.

A third fire, which was on the southwest end of the McKinney blaze, prompted evacuation orders for around 500 homes Sunday, said Courtney Kreider, a spokesperson with the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office. The office said crews had been on the scene of the fire since late Saturday but that the fire Sunday morning "became active and escaped its containment line."

Several people in the sheriff's office have been affected by evacuation orders due to the fires "and they're still showing up to work so, (a) very dedicated crew," she said. A deputy lost his childhood home to fire on Friday, she said.

The McKinney fire "remains 0% contained," the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post late Sunday night.

US rules out summer COVID boosters to focus on fall campaign

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. regulators said Friday they are no longer considering authorizing a second COVID-19 booster shot for all adults under 50 this summer, focusing instead on revamped vaccines for the fall that will target the newest viral subvariants.

Pfizer and Moderna expect to have updated versions of their shots available as early as September, the Food and Drug Administration said in a statement. That would set the stage for a fall booster campaign to strengthen protection against the latest versions of omicron.

The announcement means the U.S. won't pursue a summer round of boosters using the current vaccines for adults under 50, as some Biden administration officials and outside experts previously suggested. They had argued that another round of shots now could help head off rising cases and hospitalizations caused by the highly transmissible omicron strains.

Currently, all Americans age 5 and over are eligible for a booster shot five months after their initial primary series. Fourth doses of the Pfizer or

Moderna shots — a second booster — are recommended for Americans 50 and older and for younger people with serious health issues that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19.

The FDA urged eligible adults who haven't been boosted to get their extra shot now: "You can still benefit from existing booster options and leave time to receive an updated booster in the fall," the agency said in a statement.

The White House has also emphasized that getting a fourth dose now won't im-

pact anyone's ability to get omicron-targeted shots once they're made available — although how long it's been since their last dose will play a role in how soon they're eligible.

Two omicron subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5, are even more contagious than their predecessors and have pushed new daily cases above 125,000 and hospitalizations to 6,300. Those are the highest levels since February, though deaths have remained low at about 360 per day, thanks to widespread immunity and improved treatments against the virus.

Infrastructure damage hampers flood recovery in Kentucky

HINDMAN, Ky. (AP)—Damage to critical infrastructure and the arrival of more heavy rains hampered efforts Sunday to help Kentucky residents hit by recent massive flooding, Gov. Andy Beshear said.

As residents in Appalachia tried to slowly piece their lives back together, flash flood warnings were issued for at least eight eastern Kentucky counties. The National Weather Service said radar indicated up to 4 inches (10.2 centimeters) of rain fell Sunday in some areas, with more rain possible.

Beshear said the death toll climbed to 28 on Sunday from last week's storms, a number he expected to rise significantly

and that it could take weeks to find all the victims.

Thirty-seven people were unaccounted for as search and rescue operations continued early Sunday, according to a daily briefing from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A dozen shelters were open for flood victims in Kentucky with 388 occupants.

Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the U.S. National Guard Bureau, told The Associated Press about 400 people have been rescued by National Guard helicopter. He estimated that the guard had rescued close to 20 by boat from hard-to-access areas.

At a news conference in Knott County, Beshear praised

the fast arrival of FEMA trailers but noted the numerous challenges.

"We have dozens of bridges that are out—making it hard to get to people, making it hard to supply people with water," he said. "We have entire water systems down that we are working hard to get up."

Beshear said it will remain difficult, even a week from now, to "have a solid number on those accounted for. It's communications issues—it's also not necessarily, in some of these areas, having a firm number of how many people were living there in the first place."

The governor also talked about the selflessness he's seen

among Kentucky residents suffering from the floods.

"Many people that have lost everything but they're not even getting goods for themselves, they're getting them for other people in their neighborhoods, making sure that their neighbors are OK," Beshear said.

Among the stories of survival that continue to emerge, a 17-year-old girl whose home in Whitesburg was flooded Thursday put her dog in a plastic container and swam 70 yards to safety on a neighbor's roof. Chloe Adams waited hours until daylight before a relative in a kayak arrived and moved them to safety, first taking her dog, Sandy, and then the teenager.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pelosi lands in Singapore to kick off Asia tour

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Singapore early Monday, kicking off her Asian tour as questions swirled over a possible stop in Taiwan that has fueled tension with Beijing. A person familiar with the matter confirmed that Pelosi and her delegation landed in the city-state before dawn. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release details to the media. Pelosi will call on Singapore President Halimah Yacob and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and meet with a number of Cabinet Ministers, said a spokesperson for Singapore's foreign ministry. She is also expected to attend a cocktail reception with the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore. There is no media access to her visit, which has been kept under tight wraps.

Georgia instructor charged in fatal shooting of student

CARROLTON, Ga. (AP)—A university instructor in Georgia has been charged with killing an 18-year-old student who was fatally shot while sitting in a car. The Carrollton Police Department said in a news release that Richard Sigman, 47, is charged with murder and aggravated assault in the shooting death of Anna Jones, 18. Police said they believe Jones was killed when Sigman shot into a parked car following an argument with a man at a pizza restaurant. The shooting happened shortly after midnight Saturday. Police said a man told security that Sigman had threatened to shoot him during an argument, and security then asked Sigman to leave. Investigators believe when Sigman left, he walked to the parking deck and started shooting into a parked vehicle, hitting Jones. Friends drove Jones to a hospital where she was pronounced dead, police said.

7 dead in wrong-way crash on northern Illinois interstate

HAMPSHIRE, Ill. (AP)—A crash involving a wrong-way car on an interstate in northern Illinois left seven people dead Sunday, including five children, authorities said. The crash occurred around 2 a.m. on Interstate 90 in McHenry County, roughly 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Chicago. Lauren Dobosz, 31, of Rolling Meadows and five children, all in a Chevrolet full-size van, were killed, according to Illinois State Police. The children were ages 5 to 13. Jennifer Fernandez, 22, of Carpentersville, was driving an Acura TSX and also died, police said. Fernandez was driving in the wrong direction "for unknown reasons" before striking the van in the westbound lanes of I-90, police said, adding that both vehicles were "engulfed in flames." The driver of the van, Thomas Dobosz, 32, was seriously injured.

Asia

F. Ramos, ex-Philippine leader who helped oust dictator, dies

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine President Fidel Valdez Ramos, a U.S.-trained ex-general who saw action in the Korean and Vietnam wars and played a key role in a 1986 pro-democracy uprising that ousted a dictator, has died. He was 94.

Ramos's family announced his death with profound sadness but did not provide other details in a brief statement that asked for privacy.

One of his longtime aides, Norman Legaspi, told The Associated Press that Ramos had been in and out of the hospital in recent years due to a heart condition and had suffered from dementia.

Some of Ramos's relatives were with him when he died on Sunday at the Makati Medical Center in metropolitan Manila, Legaspi said.

"He was an icon. We lost a hero and I lost a father," said Legaspi, a retired Philippine air force official, who served as a close staff to Ramos in and out of government for about 15 years.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. condoled with the family of



Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos bites his cigar as he looks on photographs during an exhibit on the 20th anniversary of "People Power" in suburban Makati, south of Manila, Philippines, on Feb. 22, 2006. AP

Ramos in a Facebook post. "We did not only lose a good leader but also a member of the family," he said.

The newly elected president is the namesake son of the former Philippine dictator, whose 1986 ouster came after Ramos, then a top official of the Philippine Constabulary, and defense chief Juan Ponce En-

rile withdrew their support in defections that sparked massive army-backed protests.

Ramos was the late dictator's second cousin, and in 1972 had helped him implement martial law during which thousands of people were incarcerated, tortured and became victims of extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

Japanese journalist detained at Myanmar protest march

BANGKOK (AP)—A Japanese video journalist has been detained by security forces in Myanmar while covering a protest against military rule in the country's largest city, pro-democracy activists said Sunday.

Toru Kubota, a Tokyo-based documentary filmmaker, was arrested on Saturday by plainclothes police after a flash protest in Yangon, according to Typ Fone, a leader of the group Yangon Democratic Youth Strike, which organized the rally. Like many activists, he uses a pseudonym for protection against the military authorities.

Myanmar's army seized

power in February last year by ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, and has since cracked down hard on dissent.

According to a detailed tally compiled by Myanmar's Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, at least 2,138 civilians have been killed by the security forces and 14,917 arrested since the military takeover.

Last week, the military government drew sharp international criticism after announcing that it had hanged four activists convicted of terrorism in secret trials.

Typ Fone told The Associ-

ated Press that two protesters in Saturday's march were also arrested and detained in a township police station. The arrests were also reported by several other anti-government groups.

Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Kihara on Monday said "a Japanese male citizen in his 20s" was arrested Saturday while filming a demonstration in Yangon and that he has since been detained by local police. Kihara said Japanese embassy officials have been requesting his early release, while "doing utmost" for his safety and information gathering.

No reported damage in PH from Chinese rocket debris

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—There was no reported damage in a western Philippine region where debris from a rocket that boosted part of China's new space station reportedly fell, a Filipino official said Monday.

Philippine Space Agency official Marc Talampas said authorities have been advised to be on the lookout for the rocket debris, which may have splashed down into seaways off Palawan province.

"We are monitoring the situation and have also issued an advisory to the public to be vigilant, avoid contact with any suspected floating debris

and to report to local authorities immediately," Talampas told The Associated Press.

The China Manned Space Agency reported Sunday that most of the final stage of the Long March-5B rocket burned up after entering the atmosphere. It said the booster would be allowed to fall unguided.

The Chinese agency announcement gave no details of whether remaining debris fell on land or sea but said the "landing area" was at 119 degrees east longitude and 9.1 degrees north latitude. That is in waters southeast of Palawan's capital city of

Puerto Princesa.

The Philippine Space Agency did not receive any notifications from its Chinese counterpart about the rocket debris.

China has faced criticism for allowing rocket stages to fall to Earth uncontrolled twice before. NASA accused Beijing last year of "failing to meet responsible standards regarding their space debris" after parts of a Chinese rocket landed in the Indian Ocean.

The country's first space station, Tiangong-1, crashed into the Pacific Ocean in 2016 after Beijing confirmed it lost control. An 18-ton rocket fell uncontrolled in May 2020.

World

Drone explosion hits Russia's Black Sea Fleet headquarters

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A small explosive device carried by a makeshift drone blew up Sunday at the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet on the Crimean Peninsula, wounding six people and prompting the cancellation of ceremonies there honoring Russia's navy, authorities said.

Meanwhile, one of Ukraine's richest men, a grain merchant, was killed in what Ukrainian authorities said was a carefully targeted Russian missile strike on his home.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the drone explosion in a courtyard at the naval headquarters in the city of Sevastopol. But the seemingly improvised, small-scale nature of the attack raised the possibility that it was the work of Ukrainian insurgents trying to drive out Russian forces.

A Russian lawmaker from Crimea, Olga Kovitidi, told Russian state news agency RIA-Novosti that the drone was launched from Sevastopol itself. She said the incident was being treated as a terrorist act, the news agency said.

Crimean authorities raised the terrorism threat level for the region to "yellow," the second-highest tier.

Sevastopol, which was seized along with the rest of Crimea from Ukraine by Russia in 2014, is about 170 kilometers (100 miles) south of the Ukrainian mainland. Russian forces control much of the mainland along the Black Sea.

The Black Sea Fleet's press service said the drone appeared to be homemade. It described the explosive device as "low-power." Sevastopol Mayor Mikhail Razvozhayev said six people were wounded. Observances of Russia's Navy Day holiday were canceled in the city.

Ukraine's navy and an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the reported drone attack undermined the weakness of Russian air defenses.

"Did the occupiers admit the helplessness of their air defense system? Or their helplessness in front of the Crimean partisans?" Oleksiy Arestovich said on Telegram.

If such an attack is possible by Ukraine, he said, "the

destruction of the Crimean bridge in such situations no longer sounds unrealistic" — a reference to the span that Russia built to connect its mainland to Crimea after the annexation.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, the mayor of the major port city of Mykolaiv, Vitaliy Kim, said shelling killed one of Ukraine's wealthiest men, Oleksiy Vadatsky, and his wife, Raisa. Vadatsky headed a grain production and export business.

Another presidential adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, said Vadatsky was specifically targeted.

It "was not an accident, but a well-thought-out and organized premeditated murder. Vadatsky was one of the largest farmers in the country, a key person in the region and a major employer. That the exact hit of a rocket was not just in a house, but in a specific wing, the bedroom, leaves no doubt about aiming and adjusting the strike," he said.

Vadatsky's agribusiness, Nibulon, includes a fleet of ships for sending grain abroad.

WORLD BRIEFS

U.N. peacekeepers kill 2, wound 15 at border post in Congo

BENI, Congo (AP)—U.N. peacekeepers returning from leave opened fire at a border post between Congo and Uganda, killing at least two people and wounding at least 15 more, the U.N. mission and Congo government officials said Sunday. Tensions between the population in restive eastern Congo and the U.N. peacekeeping force have risen dramatically in the past week, with nearly 20 killed in protests calling for the force to leave the region. Bintou Keita, head of the U.N. mission in Congo and special representative of the U.N. secretary general, said she was deeply shocked by the shootings in Kasindi, the border town with Uganda in the Beni territory of Congo's North Kivu province. She said it was not clear why the peacekeepers opened fire. "This serious incident has caused loss of life and serious injuries," said Keita. "Faced with this unspeakable and irresponsible behavior, the perpetrators of the shooting were identified and

arrested pending the conclusions of the investigation, which has already started in collaboration with the Congolese authorities."

Part of Beirut port silos, damaged in 2020 blast, collapses

BEIRUT (AP)—A section of Beirut's massive port grain silos, shredded in the 2020 explosion, collapsed in a huge cloud of dust on Sunday after a weeklong fire, triggered by grains that had fermented and ignited in the summer heat. The northern block of the silos toppled after what sounded like an explosion, kicking up thick gray dust that enveloped the iconic structure and the port next to a residential area. It was not immediately clear if anyone was injured. Assaad Haddad the General Director of the Port Silo, told The Associated Press that "everything is under control" but that the situation has not subsided yet. Minutes later, the dust subsided and calm returned. However, Youssef Mallah, from the Civil Defense department, said that other parts of the silos' north-

ern block were at risk and that other sections of the giant ruin could collapse.

Red Cross: 10 killed in flooding in hilly eastern Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Heavy rains in hilly eastern Uganda triggered flooding that burst river banks and submerged homes and roads, killing at least 10 people, the Red Cross said Sunday. The victims of the Saturday night downpour lived in the neighboring districts of Kapchorwa and Mbale. Videos of the scene showed terrified people squirming for safety as water levels rose in one village, toppling houses and felling banana trees. The death toll is likely to rise, with local reporters saying they spotted bodies being washed away by the torrent. "This disaster is due to environmental degradation," Ugandan Prime Minister Robinah Nabanja told reporters from Mbale, adding that Ugandan security officials have been called to assist in rescue efforts. "How many people are going to die like this?"

Overdrive

By JORDYN GRZELEWSKI
THE DETROIT NEWS

Ford Motor Co. will introduce a version of the all-electric F-150 Lightning for police use.

The Detroit automaker on Thursday announced the 2023 Ford F-150 Lightning Pro Special Service Vehicle, a model that will be purpose-built for police departments. Ford noted in a press release that it has been supplying vehicles to police departments for more than 70 years.

Ford Pro, the company's dedicated commercial vehicle business, counts more than 12,000 police departments across the U.S. as customers and claims that its police vehicle lineup outsells all other police vehicles combined.

Ford offers several police vehicle models, including the Police Interceptor Utility and an internal combustion engine version of the F-150 SSV.

"We're proud to offer America's first electric police pickup truck to local government customers who can use

the truck's game-changing technology to help improve their productivity," Nate Oscarson, Ford Pro national government sales manager, said in a statement.

Ford says the Lightning Pro SSV is "designed to handle specialized departmental needs" such as assisting at an accident site or crime scene. Purpose-built features include: police-grade heavy-duty cloth seats with reduced bolsters; built-in steel intrusion plates in the front seatbacks; and available red/blue and amber/white roof-mounted LED warning beacons, among others.

Ford Pro SSV customers will get a complimentary two-year subscription to Ford Telematics; consultation related to charging installation and operation, data management and digital services; and a service that provides guides and information on how to add specialty tools and after-market equipment, among other offerings.

Ford said more information about the 2023 F-150 Lightning will be released later

this summer. The automaker launched the F-150 Lightning in April.

Electric cars start covering more ground than combustion counterparts

By COLIN MCKERRACHER
BLOOMBERG NEWS

While gasoline prices have come down from their highs earlier this summer, drivers are still feeling plenty of pain at the pump. Unless, of course, you're an electric vehicle owner, and thus feeling very smug while gliding past fueling stations to charge at home.

Using an EV more in times of high gasoline prices is to be expected, but one of the open questions in the industry has been whether EV drivers will consistently cover more miles on average than gas or diesel car owners.

In many countries it's difficult to get a clear read, mostly because EVs are still a very small share of the total number of cars on the road. But to get a hint of where things may head, we can turn to Norway. The latest data released from the nation's statistical agency shows battery-electric vehicles now drive more miles annually on average than cars running purely on gasoline or diesel. Average distance traveled by the latter two car segments has fallen steadily the last 15 years.

This is remarkable. It highlights the growing capability of the latest EV models, and also has implications for what happens to oil demand from road transport. The amount of oil displaced by EVs depends on how fast we switch over the number of kilometers or miles traveled to electric, not the number of cars.

To understand this better, consider a two-car family, where one of the vehicles is electric and

the other is internal combustion. EVs have much lower operating costs, so the family will likely start to shift more miles to the EV once they get comfortable with the vehicle. The commute to work, for example, involves a highly predictable route and often accounts for the largest share of driving a person does. So while the family still has an internal combustion car and uses it for occasional longer trips, the electric share of total kilometers traveled by the household rises faster than one might expect, especially if one was only considering the number of cars.

This effect shouldn't be surprising; people like to use more of things that are cheaper. But it wasn't always received wisdom in the market. A few years ago, some oil energy outlooks assumed not only that EV adoption would be muted, but that each EV would on average travel less than a comparable internal combustion vehicle. This now looks like a very shaky assumption. Not only will higher ranges make people use their EVs more, but even lower-range EVs can soak up some of the miles used for commuting along predictable routes.

A few other things stand out in the data. One is that you can actually see the point when the Tesla Model S, the first real long-range EV, hits the market. Average distance traveled per EV jumped sharply in 2013 and 2014 — right after the Model S launched — then climbed several more years and is now at an all-time high.

This again points to the im-

proved capability of EVs, and also potentially the effect of them moving beyond being an urban phenomenon and spreading out more broadly across the country. With more long-range EVs hitting the market, it seems reasonable to expect 2022 data will show a continuation of the trend.

Another interesting point is that hybrid vehicles also put up relatively high numbers. Data for hybrids is only available for from 2016 onwards, but they're currently neck-and-neck with pure EVs and diesel vehicles, and it will be interesting to see how this plays out in the next few years.

Fully making the change-over to electric mobility will take time. Electric vehicles still accounted for just 17% of all kilometers traveled by the passenger car fleet in Norway last year, and only about 1.5% of all kilometers traveled by the global passenger vehicle fleet. Until more of the fleet is fully electric, total distance covered by EVs will still have some catching up to do.

Still, at BNEF, we're expecting this same effect to start showing up in the data of more countries in the years ahead. Annual average EV mileage in China, for example, rose quickly from 2017 to 2020 before slowing slightly due to the pandemic, when ride-hailing usage plunged.

Counting car sales and fleet sizes is still important, but for energy market impact, it's best to keep an eye on distances traveled, too.

Ford introduces police version of electric F-150 LIGHTNING



FORD MOTOR CO./TNS
The 2023 F-150 Lightning Pro SSV includes features specifically tailored for law enforcement use.

Different octane gas at different elevations?

Q: We live in the suburbs of Chicago and drive a 2015 Dodge Caravan, for which it's recommended to use regular gas rated at 87 octane level. We just completed a road trip to Seattle and the gas stations in the Western states showed the regular gas with an octane rating of 85. Do cars at higher elevations run just fine on the 85 regular octane rating? Could I have saved money by purchasing regular gas instead of midgrade?

A: At higher altitudes, the air is less dense. To maintain the air/fuel ratio, lower octane is acceptable. Modern cars adjust for changes in altitude and the driver never notices any difference in performance. That's almost as cool as your phone's clock changing with time zones.

Q: Regarding your recent article about car break-ins and the possibility of the thief using the garage door opener, I would guess that most car owners have a stand-alone garage door opener hanging on the sun visor and it would be a cinch for the crook to open the garage door. My advice to anyone leaving their car in the driveway overnight would be to consider the door opener like another car key and bring it into the house overnight.

A: There are many garage door remotes that are no larger than today's remote key fobs. Some can even be programmed to operate up to four systems. Openers have come a long way and gotten much smaller than the old

MOTORMOUTH
By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



lunkers that were the size of a deck of cards.

Q: Our 2014 Kia Soul has only ever had conventional oil. We were informed by the dealership that they now only use synthetic oil. I read a while back that if a car is run on conventional for more than the first oil change, it is detrimental to change to synthetic. I went online to try to verify this, and lo and behold, it is apparently perfectly safe to switch, and even switch back and forth! I would really value your knowledgeable thoughts.

A: That's right. Not only can you switch back and forth, you may combine the two kinds of oil, as is the case with synthetic oil blends.

Q: I have a 2008 Chrysler minivan. On my way home from work, I stopped to make a delivery. When I started again the engine was revving very high and only had second and reverse gears. I put on the flashers, got on the shoulder and

drove home. I had it towed to the local transmission shop and they confirmed the situation and said it was in something they called "Limp Mode." They said it was a broken shaft in the transmission and not worth fixing. When I picked it up, to my surprise it shifted as it is supposed to. I have been driving it short distances for three weeks and no problems, but I am afraid to take it on a longer trip. Any ideas what the problem may be?

A: Various engine or transmission sensors, or even a brake system sensor malfunction, may result in the limp home mode. This is to allow you to drive to a safe place, a repair shop or even home. The check engine light will usually glow as well. Sometimes there is a temporary glitch that can trigger the limp home strategy. A technician can interrogate the vehicle's computer to track down the problem, fix it and send you on your safe and merry way.

Life & Style

Nichelle Nichols, Lt. Uhura on 'Star Trek,' has died at 89

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

Nichelle Nichols, who broke barriers for Black women in Hollywood when she played communications officer Lt. Uhura on the original "Star Trek" television series, has died at the age of 89.

Her son Kyle Johnson said Nichols died Saturday in Silver City, New Mexico.

"Last night, my mother, Nichelle Nichols, succumbed to natural causes and passed away. Her light however, like the ancient galaxies now being seen for the first time, will remain for us and future generations to enjoy, learn from, and draw inspiration," Johnson wrote on her official Facebook page Sunday. "Hers was a life

well lived and as such a model for us all."

Her role in the 1966-69 series as Lt. Uhura earned Nichols a lifelong position of honor with the series' rabid fans, known as Trekkers and Trekkies. It also earned her accolades for breaking stereotypes that had limited Black women to acting roles as servants and included an interracial onscreen kiss with co-star William Shatner that was unheard of at the time.

"I shall have more to say about the trailblazing, incomparable Nichelle Nichols, who shared the bridge with us as Lt. Uhura of the USS Enterprise, and who passed today at age 89," George Takei wrote on Twitter. "For today, my heart is heavy, my eyes shining like the



AP Actor Nichelle Nichols speaks during the Creation Entertainment's Official Star Trek Convention at The Westin O'Hare in Rosemont, Ill., Sunday, June 8, 2014.

stars you now rest among, my original "Star Trek" series deepest friend." alongside Nichols. But her impact was felt beyond her imme-

Takei played Sulu in the

diate co-stars, and many others in the "Star Trek" world also tweeted their condolences.

Celia Rose Gooding, who currently plays Uhura in "Star Trek: Strange New Worlds," wrote on Twitter that Nichols "made room for so many of us. She was the reminder that not only can we reach the stars, but our influence is essential to their survival. Forget shaking the table, she built it."

"Star Trek: Voyager" alum Kate Mulgrew tweeted, "Nichelle Nichols was The First. She was a trailblazer who navigated a very challenging trail with grit, grace, and a gorgeous fire we are not likely to see again."

Like other original cast members, Nichols also appeared in six big-screen spinoffs starting in 1979 with "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" and frequent-

ed "Star Trek" fan conventions. She also served for many years as a NASA recruiter, helping bring minorities and women into the astronaut corps.

More recently, she had a recurring role on television's "Heroes," playing the great-aunt of a young boy with mystical powers.

The original "Star Trek" premiered on NBC on Sept. 8, 1966. Its multicultural, multiracial cast was creator Gene Roddenberry's message to viewers that in the far-off future — the 23rd century — human diversity would be fully accepted.

"I think many people took it into their hearts ... that what was being said on TV at that time was a reason to celebrate," Nichols said in 1992 when a "Star Trek" exhibit was on view at the Smithsonian Institution.

Sting warns during his Warsaw concert of threats to democracy

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—British musician Sting interrupted a concert in Warsaw on Saturday evening to warn his audience that democracy is under attack worldwide and to denounce the war in Ukraine as "an absurdity based upon a lie."

He asked a popular Polish actor, Maciej Stuhr, to come onstage to translate his warning that democracy is "in grave danger of being lost unless we defend it."

"The alternative to democracy is a prison, a prison of the mind. The alternative to democracy is violence, oppression, imprisonment and silence," Sting said and then ran his hand across his neck in a throat-cutting gesture.

The 70-year-old delivered his message in a country that borders Ukraine, where Russia

launched its invasion on Feb. 24 that has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions. Poland has become the place of refuge for more Ukrainians than any other country.

"The war in the Ukraine is an absurdity based upon a lie. If we swallow that lie, the lie will eat us," Sting said. He appeared to be referring to justifications Russia has tried to give for its invasion, including a Russian claim that it seeks to "de-Nazify" Ukraine, a democracy led by a Jewish president.

Those in the audience at Warsaw's National Stadium would have also understand a reference to their own country.

Sting drew strong applause in particular when he said that democracy is something messy and frustrating "but it is still worth fighting for."

'DC League of Super-Pets' takes No. 1 with \$23 million

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

The summer box office showed signs of slowing down this weekend as the animated "DC League of Super-Pets" opened in theaters across North America.

The superhero spinoff about Superman's dog earned \$23 million from 4,314 locations, according to studio estimates Sunday. Though slightly less than expected, it was still enough to capture the first-place spot and knock Jordan Peele's "Nope" into second place in its second weekend.

Analysts had pegged "DC League of Super-Pets" for a \$25 million launch, which was on the lower end for animated openings this summer.

In June, the \$50.6 million for "Lightyear" was considered underwhelming for the \$200 million Disney/Pixar movie. Then in early July, Universal's "Minions: The Rise of Gru" captured \$107 million in its first three days.

But "Super-Pets" is more comparable to Universal's "The Bad Guys," which netted out with around \$97 million domestic after a \$23 million opening, and it's much, much stronger than Paramount's "Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank's" \$6.3 million debut several weeks ago.

"This opening is a huge win for DC fans, the box office, WB and our filmmakers," said Jeff Goldstein, the studio's president of domestic

distribution.

"DC League of Super-Pets" was not intended to be a mid-summer release. Originally, "Super-Pets" had been slated for May, while this weekend was reserved for "Black Adam," Warner Bros.' other Dwayne Johnson superhero pic. But postproduction delays due to a backup at VFX houses forced "Black Adam" to move back to October. Instead of giving up the prime date, the studio filled the open spot with a family-friendly title with an all-star voice cast, including Kevin Hart, John Krasinski, Keanu Reeves and Kate McKinnon as an evil guinea pig.

"Super-Pets" has several summer vacation weeks left with little significant compe-

tion, and the hope is that it will continue to grow steadily thanks to positive feedback from audiences this weekend. And with \$18.4 million from international showings, it has already grossed \$41.4 million globally.

"The interest is red hot," Goldstein said. "Young family movies play for a long time. Given our CinemaScore of A- and word of mouth, we're going to be around for a while."

Second place went to Universal's "Nope," which fell 57% from its debut last weekend and earned an additional \$18.6 million. The North American grosses for "Nope" are now sitting at \$80.6 million before it begins its international expansion in August.

Love triangle will inevitably cause hurt feelings

DEAR ABBY: I'm a woman who, a little while ago, got a girlfriend, "Darlene." After meeting her, I thought that was what love felt like. But my old (bisexual) friend "Michelle" has me feeling differently. I have known her since kindergarten, but recently I feel my heart racing and butterflies in my stomach just thinking about her. When Michelle does my nails and holds my hand to steady them, my knees feel weak. I do not feel this way with Darlene, although I still care deeply about her. I don't want to hurt her feelings by breaking up with her, but I think that if I were single, Michelle might consider going out with me. Darlene's feelings are extremely sensitive, and I want to keep her as a friend. But just being around Michelle has me feeling happier than ever. Abby, this is driving me insane. Do I risk hurting someone's feelings, or should I stay with Darlene and miss out on being with someone I am in love with? Am I a bad girlfriend just by thinking of this?

LOVESTRUCK IN ALASKA

DEAR LOVESTRUCK: Your feelings are your feelings. You are not a "bad" girlfriend; you are a girlfriend who is ready to break up with Darlene. Before making any announcements, verify with Michelle that your feelings are reciprocated. If they are, then you must tell Darlene you want to see other people. Count on her being hurt and probably angry,

so be as gentle as you can when you give her the news. It will be doing all three of you a favor. Breakups, while painful, are a fact of life. People do recover, and Darlene will be free to find someone who will love her the way she deserves to be loved.

◆◆◆◆

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister, "Tish," is adamant about getting our parents' affairs in order. They are in their 80s and in excellent physical and mental health except for osteo-related issues. Tish's constant reminders are making them feel she is rushing them to the grave. My siblings and I appreciate her intentions and support her efforts to get our parents to finalize their trust arrangements, but it's reached a point where she wants to start selling their belongings and is secretly throwing things away. Tish spends a lot of time looking at memorabilia and telling them who certain items should be given to. We are unable to control her, and she gets belligerent if we disagree with her vision of how things should be handled. Should I be thankful for what she's doing and try to convince my parents it's a lot less for them to worry about? I don't want to be "that" family member, but I am afraid I'm becoming such.

LOOKING ON IN TEXAS

DEAR LOOKING ON: Your parents are fortunate that

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



they are in great health, but they should also realize what inevitably lies ahead. You would be doing the whole family a favor if you pointed out to them that because Tish becomes angry and belligerent if someone disagrees with her, they need to talk to an attorney who specializes in estate planning, which will prevent conflict after their eventual passing. After that, the ball is in their court.

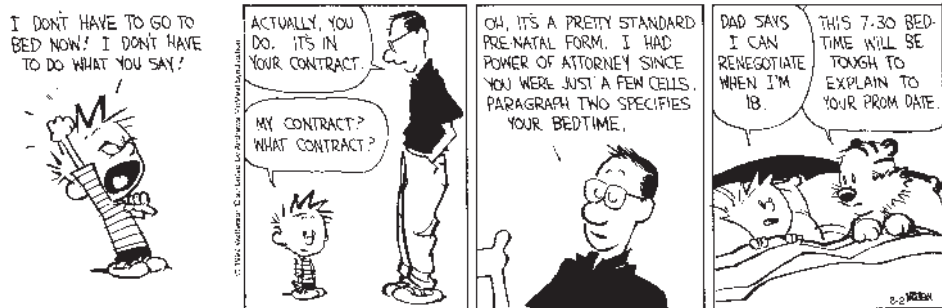
◆◆◆◆

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Winter coaster
5 Gear tooth
8 Guesser's words
12 "Arrive-derci!"
13 Notre Dame coach
14 German refusal
15 Well-known
17 Body powder
18 "Now, where — I?"
19 Novelist Deighton
20 One of the Kardashians
21 Squeak stopper
22 Golfer Trevino
23 Lake flock
26 Neighbor of Germany
30 Penny
31 Physique
32 Sci-fi race
33 Boise native

DOWN

1 Garbage barge
2 Director Wert-muller
3 Comestibles
4 Homer's lament
5 Caravan beast
6 Algerian port
7 Hiatus
8 Getting better
9 Authentic
10 Missile shelter
11 Formerly
16 Yale students
20 "Communi-ty"
actor Jeong
41 Connecti-cut Sun's org.
42 Trojan War hero
43 Memory method
44 Black, in verse
46 Feedbag tidbit
47 — friendly

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-2

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Uli Latukefu, 38; Sam Worthington, 46; Kevin Smith, 52; Mary-Louise Parker, 58.

Happy Birthday: Put yourself out there and see what happens. Be brave, voice your opinion and venture down paths that intrigue you. Take charge and set the stage for success. Use your skills to open doors, network and reconnect with people who are an asset. Stop letting negativity and other people's uncertainty hold you back. Focus on what you can achieve. Your numbers are 6, 10, 22, 25, 32, 37, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You've got more going for you than you realize. Step into the spotlight and let your intelligence capture the attention you deserve from your peers and superiors. Refuse to let physical limitations stand between you and your dreams. Don't share secrets. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let a change of plans disrupt your day. Put force behind the changes you want. You'll get things done, regardless of complaints and criticism. Time spent at home will help you sort through differences with loved ones. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put more force behind your words. Don't stop until you are happy with the results. Use your imagination, gain momentum and push your way to the top. Discipline and determination won't let you down. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can be expressive without exaggerating. Sticking to the facts will make your life

easier and help you gain respect. Reach out to someone who can offer a different perspective on a situation you face. Don't lose sight of your intentions. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An open mind will bring exciting ideas. Take a trip or focus on pursuits that will get you up to speed regarding something you want to pursue. Being well-informed will help discourage others from interfering with what you want to achieve. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Adjust what you don't like and keep moving forward. Put your time and energy into where it counts and create the scenario that best suits your needs. Don't wait for someone to do the legwork for you. Seize the moment. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep life simple, doable and stable. Refuse to let your emotions take over and ruin a good thing. Over-the-top behavior will cloud your vision and generate unnecessary mistakes. Surround yourself with people you trust. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow through and make your dreams come true. Actions speak louder than words and will help you show how serious you are regarding your intentions. Step up to the plate and give life your best shot. Leave nothing to chance. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money is heading your way. Invest in your talents and skills. Diversity will be your ticket to a better lifestyle. Be willing to do things differently if it will keep you in the game and ahead of the competition. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be aware of what's happening around you. Stick close to home and protect your assets. Revise your portfolio or change how you use your money to live and reach your life goals. An unequal partnership will require an adjustment. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll get a good look at how someone operates if you open your eyes and go over what's transpired. Don't ignore the signs when it comes to financial partnerships. If something doesn't feel right, back away and do your own thing. *****

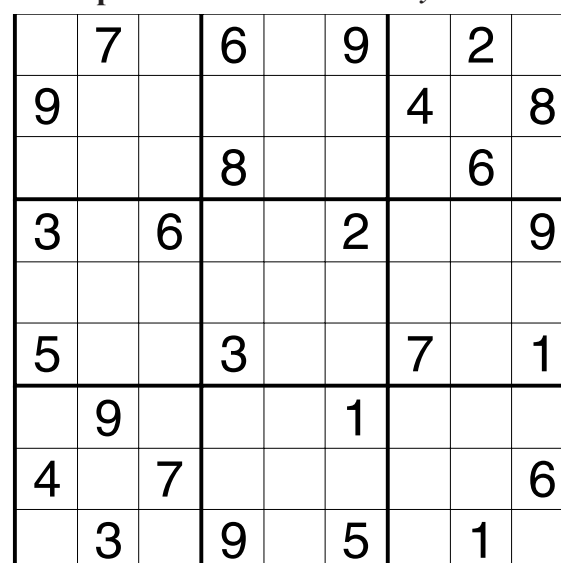
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A change is favored. Add skills that help you pursue your dreams. Your happiness depends on you doing what's right and best for you. Networking events will open a window of opportunity. Don't let emotions interfere with success. ***
Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, playful and receptive. You are resourceful and entertaining.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



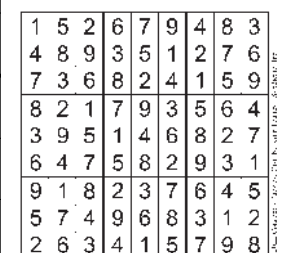
Difficulty Level ★★

8/02

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HEADBOARDS

Solution: 10 letters

D A G N I L I E C I T S U R L
I E E L E G A N T F I T O O A
M S R T H G I E H L E R F T N
E T O E T B G N I K E B O O O
N H D E T F U T N S E N P N S
S E N L G S O A C D L R A E R
I T E A M T L F R E A O I N P E
O I E U A B T O O B A L N T P
N C U S H I O N H A E O T R I
E O Q A D M R E I P M C R O L
L S T C S O V R K V U A R P L
G T L T C R U O O L L U F P O
N Y A E U D O B F R A M E U W
I L D C E B W A L L A F O S S
S E E C A P S S R E U Q C A L

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Aesthetic, Bedroom, Beds, Blanket, Book, Button, Casual, Ceiling, Color, Curve, Cushion, Decor, Dimension, Double, Elegant, Flat, Foam, Frame, Full, Height, Hotel, Iron, King, Lacquer, Metal, Mirror, Paint, Panel, Personal, Pillows, Protect, Queen, Rustic, Single, Slats, Sleep, Sofa, Soft, Space, Style, Support, Tone, Tufted, Upholstered, Vintage, Wall

Yesterday's Answer: Appendages

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 69, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Bill Russell, NBA star and civil rights pioneer, dies at 88

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON (AP)—Bill Russell redefined how basketball is played, and then he changed the way sports are viewed in a racially divided country.

The most prolific winner in NBA history, Russell marched with Martin Luther King Jr., stood with Muhammad Ali and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama. The centerpiece of the Boston Celtics dynasty that won 11 championships in 13 years, Russell earned his last two NBA titles as a player-coach—the first Black coach in any major U.S. sport.

Russell died Sunday at the age of 88, with his wife, Jeannine, at his side, his family said in a statement posted on social media. No cause of death was immediately available; Russell, who had been living in the Seattle area, was not well enough to present the NBA Finals MVP trophy in June due to a long illness.

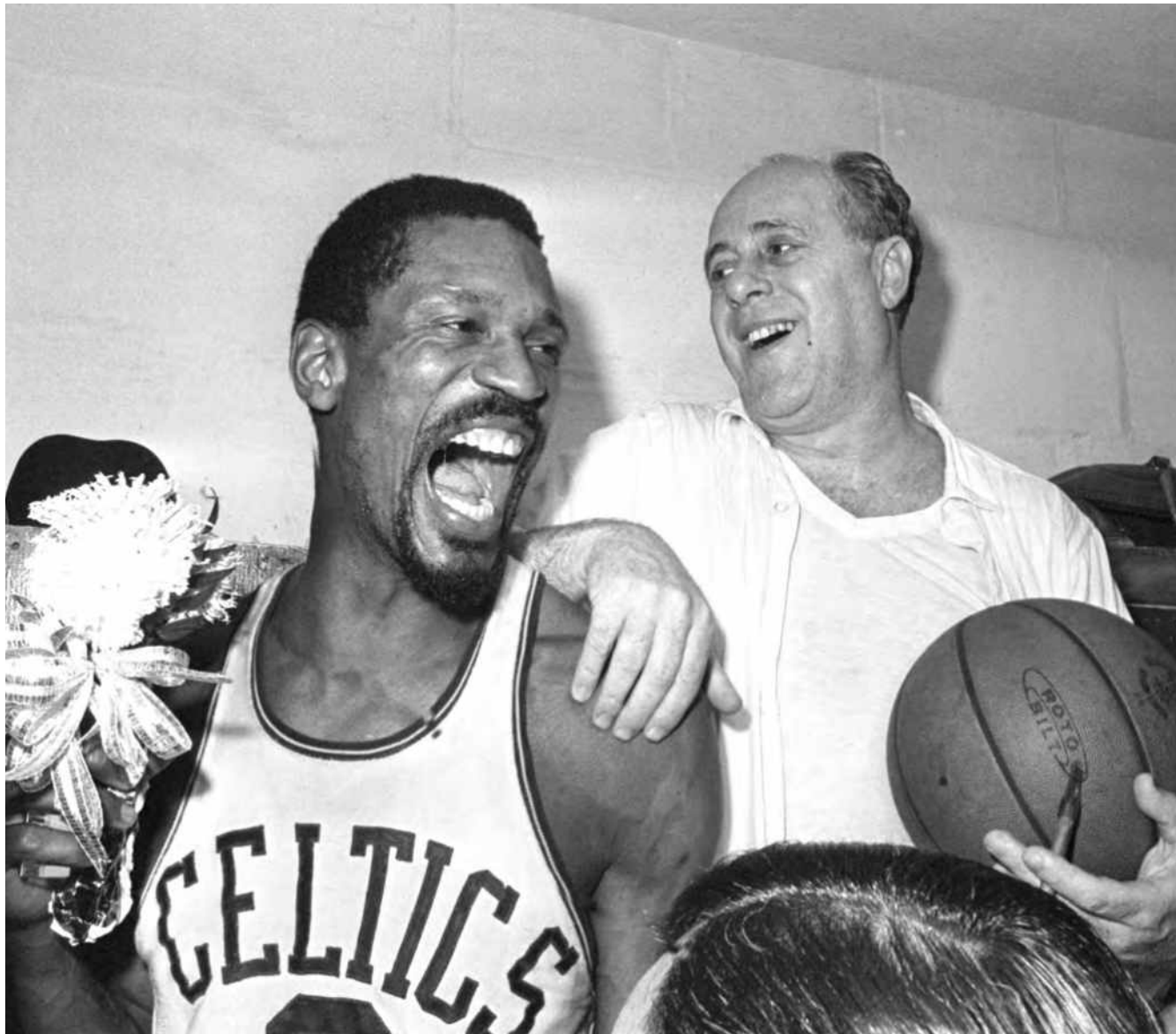
“We hope each of us can find a new way to act or speak up with Bill’s uncompromising, dignified and always constructive commitment to principle,” the family said. “That would be one last, and lasting, win for our beloved #6.”

A Hall of Famer, five-time Most Valuable Player and 12-time All-Star, Russell in 1980 was voted the greatest player in the NBA history by basketball writers. He remains the sport’s most decorated champion — he also won two college titles and an Olympic gold medal — and an archetype of selflessness who won with defense and rebounding while others racked up gaudy scoring totals.

Often, that meant Wilt Chamberlain, the only worthy rival of Russell’s era and his prime competition for rebounds, MVP trophies and barroom arguments about who was better. Chamberlain, who died in 1999 at 63, had twice as many points, four MVP trophies of his own and is the only person in league history to grab more rebounds than Russell — 23,924 to 21,620.

But Russell dominated in the only stat he cared about: 11 championships to two.

“Bill Russell was the greatest champion in all of team sports,” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. More importantly, he added: “Bill stood for something much bigger than sports: the values of equality, respect and in-



Boston Celtics’ Bill Russell, left, holds a corsage sent to the dressing room as he celebrates with Celtics coach Red Auerbach after defeating the Los Angeles Lakers, 95-93, to win their eighth-straight NBA Championship, in Boston, in this April 29, 1966, photo. AP

clusion that he stamped into the DNA of our league.”

In a statement released by the White House, President Joe Biden praised Russell for his lifelong work in civil rights as well as in sports, and called him “a towering champion for freedom, equality, and justice.”

“Bill Russell is one of the greatest athletes in our history—an all-time champion of champions, and a good man and great American who did everything he could to deliver the promise of America for all Americans,” Biden said.

Reaction poured in Sunday, from Obama to Michael Jordan, from Magic Johnson to Boston’s Mayor, Michelle Wu.

“Today, we lost a giant,” Obama said. “As tall as Bill Russell stood, his legacy rises far higher — both as a player and as a person. Perhaps more than anyone else, Bill knew what it took to win and what it took to lead.”

A Louisiana native, Russell also left a lasting mark as a Black athlete in a city — and country — where race is often a flash point. He was at the March on Washington in 1963, when King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech, and he backed Ali when the boxer was pilloried for refusing induction into the military draft.

In 2011, Obama awarded Russell the Medal of Freedom alongside Congressman John Lewis, billionaire investor Warren Buffett, then-German Chancellor Angela Merkel and baseball great Stan Musial.

“To be the greatest champion in your sport, to revolutionize the way the game is played, and to be a societal leader all at once seems unthinkable,” the Celtics said on Sunday. “But that is who Bill Russell was.”

Russell said that when he was growing up in the segregated South and later California his parents instilled in him the calm confidence that allowed him to brush off racist taunts.

“Years later, people asked me what I had to go through,” Russell said in 2008. “Unfortunately, or fortunately, I’ve never been through anything. From my first moment of being alive was the notion that my mother and father loved me.” It was Russell’s mother who would tell him to disregard comments from those who might see him playing in the yard.

“Whatever they say, good or bad, they don’t know you,” he recalled her saying. “They’re wrestling with their own demons.”

But it was Jackie Robinson who gave Russell a road map

for dealing with racism in his sport: “Jackie was a hero to us. He always conducted himself as a man. He showed me the way to be a man in professional sports.”

The feeling was mutual, Russell learned, when Robinson’s widow, Rachel, called and asked him to be a pallbearer at her husband’s funeral in 1972.

“She hung the phone up and I asked myself, ‘How do you get to be a hero to Jackie Robinson?’” Russell said. “I was so flattered.”

William Felton Russell was born on Feb. 12, 1934, in Monroe, Louisiana. He was a child when his family moved to the West Coast, and he went to high school in Oakland, California, and then the University of San Francisco. He led the Dons to NCAA championships in 1955 and 1956 and won a gold medal in 1956 at the Melbourne Olympics in Australia.

Celtics coach and general manager Red Auerbach so coveted Russell that he worked out a trade with the St. Louis Hawks for the second pick in the draft. He promised the Rochester Royals, who owned the No. 1 pick, a lucrative visit by the Ice Capades, which were also run by Celtics owner Walter Brown.

Still, Russell arrived in

Boston to complaints that he wasn’t that good. “People said it was a wasted draft choice, wasted money,” he recalled. “They said, ‘He’s no good. All he can do is block shots and rebound.’ And Red said, ‘That’s enough.’”

The Celtics also picked up Tommy Heinsohn and K.C. Jones, Russell’s college teammate, in the same draft. Although Russell joined the team late because he was leading the U.S. to the Olympic gold, Boston finished the regular season with the league’s best record.

The Celtics won the NBA championship — their first of 17 — in a double-overtime seventh game against Bob Pettit’s St. Louis Hawks. Russell won his first MVP award the next season, but the Hawks won the title in a finals rematch. The Celtics won it all again in 1959, starting an unprecedented string of eight consecutive NBA crowns.

A 6-foot-10 center, Russell never averaged more than 18.9 points during his 13 seasons, each year producing more rebounds than points. For 10 seasons he averaged more than 20 rebounds. He once had 51 rebounds in a game; Chamberlain holds the record with 55.

Auerbach retired after winning the 1966 title, and Rus-

sell became the player-coach — the first Black head coach in NBA history, and almost a decade before Frank Robinson took over Cleveland in baseball’s American League. Boston’s title streak ended with a loss to Chamberlain and the Philadelphia 76ers in the Eastern Division finals.

Russell led the Celtics back to titles in 1968 and ’69, each time winning seven-game playoff series against Chamberlain. Russell retired after the ’69 finals, returning for a relatively successful — but unfulfilling — four-year stint as coach and GM of the Seattle SuperSonics and a less fruitful half season as coach of the Sacramento Kings.

Russell’s No. 6 jersey was retired by the Celtics in 1972. He earned spots on the NBA’s 25th anniversary all-time team in 1970, 35th anniversary team in 1980 and 75th anniversary team. In 1996, he was hailed as one of the NBA’s 50 greatest players.

In 2009, the MVP trophy of the NBA Finals was named in his honor. (Russell never won the honor, because it was awarded for the first time in 1969.) He presented his namesake trophy for many years, the last in 2019 to Kawhi Leonard; Russell was not there in 2020 because of the NBA bubble nor in 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns.

In 2013, a statue was unveiled on Boston’s City Hall Plaza of Russell surrounded by blocks of granite with quotes on leadership and character. Russell was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1975 but did not attend the ceremony, saying he should not have been the first African American elected. (Chuck Cooper, the NBA’s first Black player, was his choice.)

In 2019, Russell accepted his Hall of Fame ring in a private gathering.

“I felt others before me should have had that honor,” he tweeted. “Good to see progress.”

But to Jordan, Russell stood alone.

“Bill Russell was a pioneer — as a player, as a champion, as the NBA’s first Black head coach and as an activist,” the former Chicago Bulls star and current Charlotte Hornets majority owner said. “He paved the way and set an example for every Black player who came into the league after him, including me. The world has lost a legend.”

Russell’s family said arrangements for the memorial service will be announced in the coming days.

Alvarez delivers in 10th, Astros beat Rodríguez-less M's



**H O U S -
T O N**
(A P) —

Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI single with one out in the 10th inning to lift the Houston Astros to a 3-2 win over the Seattle Mariners on Sunday.

Mauricio Dubón started the 10th as the automatic runner on second and the Mariners intentionally walked Jose Altuve. Dubón advanced to third on a sacrifice fly by Yuli Gurriel. Alvarez then laced a grounder off Brennan Bernardino (0-1), who was making his MLB debut, to left field to send Dubón home and start the celebration.

Hector Neris (4-3) pitched a scoreless 10th for the win.

The Mariners were playing without star rookie Julio Rodríguez, who was placed on the injured list with a bruised right wrist Sunday after being hit by a pitch a night earlier.

The AL-West leading Astros scored two runs in the first inning to take the lead. The Mariners used a two-run homer by Jesse Winker in the eighth inning to tie it.

Rangers 5, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Ezequiel Duran hit a three-run double in the ninth inning as Texas beat the Angels despite Los Angeles starter Reid Detmers throwing an immaculate inning.

Texas took three of four from the Angels and went 5-6 on its season-high, 11-game road trip.

Detmers became the first pitcher in seven years with a no-hitter and an immaculate inning in the same season, achieving the latter during the second inning when he struck out Duran, Kole Calhoun and Charlie Culberson on nine pitches. It is the fourth immaculate inning in the majors this year and the 109th in baseball's recorded history.

Shohei Ohtani and Brandon Marsh had two hits apiece for the Angels, who dropped three of four and went 6-18 in July.

The Rangers got their first three abounds in the ninth on Leody Taveras' base hit and Jose Quijada (0-3) issuing walks to Jonah Heim and Adolis Garcia. Duran then cleared the bases with a double to the right-center field gap off Raisel Iglesias.

Brock Burke (5-2) won in relief and Jonathan Hernandez earned his first major league save.

Royals 8, Yankees 6

In New York, Salvador Perez hit a three-run homer off All-Star closer Clay Holmes in the ninth inning, and Kansas City beat New York to avoid being

swept in the season series.

New York overcame a 4-0 deficit and took a 6-4 lead when Anthony Rizzo hit a three-run homer, his 25th of the season, in the seventh.

Hunter Dozier homered against Ron Marinaccio leading off the eighth, ending Marinaccio's 19-inning scoreless streak and run of 56 consecutive batters without allowing a hit.

Holmes (5-2) blew a save for the third time in 20 chances.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 3

In Denver, James Outman homered on the first swing of his first big-league at-bat and finished with three hits and three RBIs as Los Angeles beat Colorado and closed out July with 21 victories.

Freddie Freeman added three hits and an RBI, passing teammate Trea Turner for the MLB lead in hits. Tony Gonsolin (12-1) bounced back from his first loss of the season as the Dodgers finished the month 21-5, tying the franchise record for most wins in July.

Outman became the eighth Dodgers player in franchise history — the fourth since the move to Los Angeles — to homer in his first career plate appearance. With a 1-1 count, he homered on a 95 mph fastball from German Marquez (6-9) to give the Dodgers a 2-0 lead in the third inning. He had a single and scored in the seventh inning and drove in a run with a double to the wall in right-center in the eighth.

Padres 3, Twins 2

In San Diego, Jurickson Profar homered for the second straight game and had a hand in the go-ahead rally as San Diego took two out of three from AL Central-leading Minnesota.

That sixth-inning rally backed left-hander Sean Manaea (6-5), who overcame home runs by Luis Arraez and Jose Miranda to get the win. Luis Garcia pitched a perfect ninth for his first save.

Profar homered off Dylan Bundy (6-5) with two outs in the third for a 1-0 lead. It was his 11th. Bundy gave up three runs and four hits in five-plus innings, struck out three and walked none.

The Padres took the lead while chasing Bundy during a sixth-inning rally. Trent Grisham and Profar opened with consecutive singles. Former Padres reliever Emilio Pagán entered, and after Manny Machado lined out to center, Jake Cronenworth singled in the tying run and Luke Voit singled in the go-ahead run.



Houston Astros' Yordan Alvarez, center, celebrates with teammates after hitting a game-winning RBI single against the Seattle Mariners during the 10th inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 31, 2022, in Houston. T

Manaea allowed two runs and four hits in six innings, struck out seven and walked three.

Cardinals 5, Nationals 0

In Washington, Paul DeJong homered for the second straight game after ending a minor league demotion, Andre Pallante pitched into the ninth inning and St. Louis Cardinals blanked Washington.

Corey Dickerson also homered for the Cardinals, who broke the game open in the fourth inning against starter Josiah Gray (7-7).

Washington star Juan Soto was 0 for 3 with a walk. Soto is one of several Nationals who could be dealt before Tuesday's trade deadline. Washington has the worst record in the majors at 35-68 and went 6-19 in July.

Pallante (4-4) allowed five hits in eight-plus innings and earned his first road victory for St. Louis. He struck out a career-high eight and walked one.

Pirates 8, Phillies 2

In Pittsburgh, Alec Bohm fell a triple shy of the cycle and matched a career best with four hits as Philadelphia completed a four-game sweep of Pittsburgh.

Bohm hit his seventh homer of the season in the sixth, a solo shot that gave him four hits on just five pitches and extended Philadelphia's lead to seven runs. Nick Castellanos also had four hits, with his fourth single coming in the ninth. Kyle Schwarber hit his NL-leading 33rd homer.

Aaron Nola (7-8) allowed one run and six hits with eight strikeouts in six innings.

Four straight singles off JT Brubaker (2-9) highlighted a five-run fifth. Brubaker al-

lowed seven runs on 12 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

White Sox 4, Athletics 1

In Chicago, José Abreu and Eloy Jiménez homered, Dylan Cease threw six strong innings and Chicago won for the 10th time in 15 games and moved about .500.

Abreu and Leury García had two hits apiece for the White Sox, who trailed first-place Minnesota by three games entering the day.

Cease (11-4) allowed a run and four hits, striking out seven and walking one in winning his fourth straight start. Liam Hendriks picked up his 20th save in 23 opportunities.

Ramón Laureano homered for the A's. Adam Oller (1-4) allowed four runs, seven hits and no walks, setting career highs for innings (6 1/3) and strikeouts (six).

Red Sox 7, Brewers 2

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts, J.D. Martinez and Christian Vázquez each had an RBI double as Boston won for the fourth time in 17 games.

Boston, which had a season-high eight doubles, was 3-7 on a season-long homestand and 8-19 in July.

Ex-Red Sox outfielder Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer over the Green Monster for the second straight day and went 4 for 4 for NL Central-leading Milwaukee, which lost for only the second time in nine games since the All-Star break.

Braves 1, Diamondbacks 0

In Atlanta, Austin Riley hit a run-scoring double off Mark Melancon in the ninth inning and Atlanta completed a three-game sweep of Arizona.

Max Fried, Dylan Lee and

Kenley Jansen (5-0) combined on a four-hitter for the Braves.

Matt Olson singled with one out in the ninth against Melancon (3-9) and scored when Riley's double hit the fence in right-center on two hops. Olson slid headfirst, easily beating the throw.

Fried allowed four hits and two walks with five strikeouts in seven innings. Arizona's Merrill Kelly gave up three hits and two walks in seven innings with eight strikeouts.

Guardians 5, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Austin Hedges had a tiebreaking two-run single in the fifth to help Cleveland beat All-Star Game starter Shane Bieber and Tampa Bay.

Cleveland won its first series against the Rays since August 2017 and ended a long stretch of games on the road with a 6-5 record.

Reliever Kirk McCarty (2-2) allowed one run, four hits and two walks in 3 1/3 innings. Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth to get his 23rd save.

McClanahan (10-4) gave up five runs, seven hits and three walks with four strikeouts over 4 1/3 innings — tying a season low.

Mets 9, Marlins 3

In Miami, Francisco Lindor had three hits and New York pounded trade deadline target Pablo López and swept Miami and handed the Marlins their seventh straight home loss.

Jeff McNeil singled twice and doubled, and Mark Canha also had three hits for the NL East leaders, who won their sixth straight and finished with a season-high 19 hits — 12 against López.

New York starter Taijuan Walker gave up three runs in

5 2/3 innings. Walker (9-2) allowed seven hits, walked two and struck out four.

López (7-6) struck out one in 2 2/3 innings, one of his shortest starts of the season. The Marlins snapped a 20-inning scoreless skid on Jacob Stallings' RBI single in the fifth.

Blue Jays 4, Tigers 1

In Toronto, Matt Chapman hit a two-run home run, José Berrios pitched seven strong innings to win his third straight decision and Toronto beat error-prone Detroit.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Bo Bichette had RBI doubles as the Blue Jays have won 12 of 15 overall after taking three of four from the Tigers.

Berrios (8-4) allowed three hits, including a solo home run to his brother-in-law, Tigers shortstop Javier Báez. Berrios walked one and struck out six. Jordan Romano finished for his AL-leading 24th save in 27 chances.

The Tigers made four errors Sunday, giving them seven in the four-game series. None of Toronto's runs Sunday were unearned.

Giants 4, Cubs 0

In San Francisco, Carlos Rodón struck out 10 over seven dominant innings amid speculation he could be traded, and San Francisco beat Chicago.

Rodón (9-6) got plenty of defensive help. He yielded two hits, none after the third inning. It was the 18th double-digit strikeout performance of his career and his sixth this season.

San Francisco scored all its runs in the fourth inning by rallying with two outs against starter Adrian Sampson (0-2). Eighth-place hitter Jason Vosler roped an RBI single, followed by No. 9 hitter Austin Wynns' bases-loaded triple.

Reds 3, Orioles 2

In Cincinnati, Brandon Drury reached 20 homers for the first time in his big league career when he hit a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning to give Cincinnati a win over Baltimore.

Drury entered as a pinch hitter in the sixth inning and broke a 2-all tie in the eighth with his homer off Felix Bautista (3-3).

Alexis Diaz (3-1) won despite allowing a tying home run in the eighth to Anthony Santander. Buck Farmer got his first career save in six chances.

Santander had three hits, including his 19th homer, and extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Triton Athletics releases 2022 tryout schedule

The University of Guam has set their fall semester varsity sport tryout schedule for the Triton Athletics and Field House Department. UOG will start with basketball tryouts first and end their tryouts with women's indoor volleyball.

"We are so happy that we could return to the athletic fields and courts in the spring of 2022 and now in the fall, we plan on expanding the program to seven sports and hopefully we can play 10 sports in a couple of years," said UOG Athletic director Doug Palmer.

Triton Athletics has brought back the women's volleyball program, both the full six player indoor version and the two-player beach version as well. Tri-

ton Athletics hopes to play men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, baseball, women's rugby, and women's volleyball in 2022-23.

Palmer says that men's volleyball and men's rugby will be high on the list of new sports for 2023-24 academy year as well as a women's softball team too, plus cross country and may be some other sports depending on the potential student interest in them.

The following are the dates and times for fall tryouts:

Indoor sports

- Women's basketball Aug. 15-16 Field House 7pm-9:30pm
- Men's basketball Aug. 15-16 Field House 7pm-9:30pm

- Women's volleyball Sept. 6 Field House 7pm-9:30pm

Outdoor sports

- Men's soccer Aug. 15-16 soccer/rugby field 4pm 6pm
 - Women's soccer Aug. 16-17 soccer/rugby field 4pm 6pm
 - Women's rugby Aug. 18-19 soccer/rugby field 4pm 6pm
 - Women's beach VB Aug. 18-19 Jimmy Dee beach courts 4pm to 6pm
 - Baseball Aug. 25-26 George Washington HS 4pm 6pm
- "Hopefully all our sports will be up and running and playing games by October and this will be the biggest year of UOG varsity sports



since we re-started the program 2016," said Palmer.

The women's basketball program is scheduled to be the first team to play in the fall, with a Sept. 7 date set for their opening game, most other sports will start after the Labor Day weekend with hopefully all sports playing their fall seasons by the first weekend in October.

For questions and more information, contact Doug Palmer at palmerd@triton.uog.edu or call at (671)735-2862. (PR)

TRITON ATHLETICS

University of Guam's Triton Athletics will conduct men's soccer tryouts on Aug. 15 and 16 from 4pm to 6pm at the soccer/rugby field.

LEE

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of that."

He said NMIBF's junior program is currently jumping around from the Marianas High School Gymnasium to the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium and worse, sometimes forced to train on outdoor courts if both facilities are booked.

"They are currently training for the FIBA Oceania Ju-

nior Championship set to be held in Guam come November, but by next month when school starts they won't have the MHS Gym to use. We have a lot of events and potential to go out and compete and elevate our athletes but we are limited because we do not have a home to train."

Lee said after the success of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, CNMI sports is at a crossroads where a decision has to be made whether we are just happy to participate in regional or even international competitions or is the CNMI ready to take the next step.

"We need to start thinking long term, meaning, where do we want to go from here in terms of sports. Do we want to be at a competitive level? If so, then our planning phase needs to include a training facility for each active federation. From there, we can then hold them accountable for the

development and results of their programs."

The NMIBF executive at some point CNMI sports federations should be given the tools to squeeze every ounce of potential from their athletes.

"We can't just expect the federation to improve and provide a competitive national team/athletes just by simply updating their bylaws and following the guidelines."

CNMI Wrestling president John Davis earlier called on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and NMSA to prioritize the creation of training facilities not only for weightlifting but other active sports in the Commonwealth.

During the Team NMI Celebration Dinner last month at Kensington Hotel Saipan, NMSA president Jerry Tan intimated that weightlifting certainly deserves a home after their showing in the recent Mini Games.

WIMBLEDON

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experience."

The 12-year-old said aside from going up against the best 14 and under tennis players in the world, playing in Wimbledon also afforded him the chance to see and meet the best tennis players in the world.

"Getting to meet my idols was the highlight. Some of the world-ranked players I've met were Novak Djokovic, who was warming up right beside my court; and Andy Murray, who waved a hello while I was walking in the player's area of Wimbledon; and of course Billie Jean King. It was all a prestigious experience to meet them all together at Wimbledon."

After the NPRC in Guam, Lam is back on Saipan training

with CNMI sports hall of famer and national coach Jeff Race. He will be part of the CNMI's crack 15-player delegation that will represent the region in the 2022 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji.

Lam, who grew up on Saipan before moving to Mallorca, Spain a couple of years ago, said being back on the island is great since he missed it so much.

Lam and another Oceania netter, Aishi Das of New Zealand, were selected by the Oceania Tennis Federation to represent the region in the Inaugural 14U Championships at Wimbledon that took place from July 7 to 10, 2022.

While Lam didn't win any of his matches against older and more experienced junior tennis players, he did create some waves after an impressive

ALVERICK

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ing it looked like it was going to be a perfect day, but midway through the first heats we had a huge downpour which definitely changed the terrain, gameplan, and mindset going into the Expert Class heat 1," he said.

Aboard his 2020 Yamaha 250F, the younger Alvarez said he just rode smart last Sunday and let the chips fall where they may.

"I was just riding smart and telling myself to keep it on two wheels as everyone was slipping and sliding the whole day. Just going in with a positive attitude and riding smarter not harder definitely helped me get the victory at the end of the day."

On finally beating his old man in the division, Alverick could only offer a big sigh of relief.

"My dad is definitely the man, the myth, the legend, so just being out there on the

track with him racing our hearts out is a win in and of itself. Of course getting the overall is the cherry on top! I love that this is a family sport and we can go out together and really just bond through riding and racing."

Despite being a rival on the track, Alverick still dedicated his first-ever win in the division to Cuki and his mother, Mari.

"I'm definitely dedicating this victory to my parents because without them none of this would be possible. And also to my brother Shane Alvarez being off-island because he would've been another obstacle I would have to navigate," he said.

Asked how he managed to put in some practice time given the Alvarez family was coming off a long-deserved vacation, Alverick simply said that motocross is somewhat like riding a bike again.

"Coming off an awesome family vacation, we just made sure we put in the time during practices as we were 'out

of riding shape' because it has been so long. So just getting our bodies used to riding again and getting a feel for the track as they do some touch ups here and there."

Alverick started in the sport of motocross when he was just 5 years old. He took a break from it in 2006 until the Cowtown Race Track reopened in 2020.

"Again I just want to thank my parents for everything, the Trench Tech Racing Team, the whole of MRA, and most especially the fans that come out and support us!" he added.

After the two Alvarezes, the rest of the Expert Class field were ranked as follows: Ellery Cruz (36 points), Patrick Togawa (36 points), Dave Celis (36 points), Melvin Cepeda (28 points), Lenard "Champi" Villacanas (28 points), and Charles Cepeda (28 points).

The rest of the classes in MRA's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hunn Lam with his Spanish coaches Alex Praderas and Tony Nadal while preparing for Wimbledon in Mallorca, Spain.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	69	34	.670	
Toronto	57	45	.559	11½
Tampa Bay	54	48	.529	14½
Baltimore	51	51	.500	17½
Boston	51	52	.495	18

Central Division

Minnesota	53	48	.525	
Cleveland	52	49	.515	1
Chicago	51	50	.505	2
Detroit	41	62	.398	13
Kansas City	40	62	.392	13½

West Division

Houston	67	36	.650	
Seattle	55	48	.534	12
Texas	46	55	.455	20
Los Angeles	43	59	.422	23½
Oakland	39	65	.375	28½

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

New York	64	37	.634	
Atlanta	62	41	.602	3
Philadelphia	55	47	.539	9½
Miami	47	55	.461	17½
Washington	35	68	.340	30

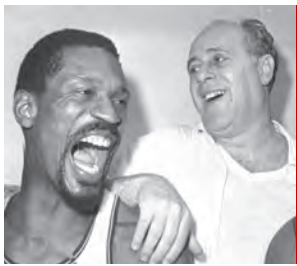
Central Division

Milwaukee	57	45	.559	
St. Louis	54	48	.529	3
Chicago	41	60	.406	15½
Cincinnati	40	61	.396	16½
Pittsburgh	40	62	.392	17

West Division

Los Angeles	68	33	.673	
San Diego	57	46	.553	12
San Francisco	51	51	.500	17½
Colorado	46	57	.447	23
Arizona	45	56	.446	23

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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rights pioneer,
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Alverick notches 1st win in Expert Class

TISHA FERRER
Expert Class winner Alverick Alvarez in action during last Sunday's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Another Alvarez took the checkered flag in the Expert Class after Alverick won last Sunday's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

The 33-year-old Docomo Pacific staff overcame the challenge of his father, Cuki, and the mud-died track to win the Marianas Racing Association monthly competition. Alverick actually finished

with Cuki with 47 points, but the former won the last race of the two-parter to take the July plum. "This is actually my first overall win in the Expert Class and it definitely is a great feeling! In the morn-



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Wimbledon was dream come true for La Hunn

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Getting to play at the All England Lawn Tennis & Cro-



Lam



quet Club last month when he became the youngest player in Wimbledon history was a dream come true for La Hunn Lam.

Lam, who recently won the boys 14 and under division of the 2022 North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam, said nothing really prepares you to play in the biggest grand slam event of the year.

"I felt nervous and excited. However, as a tennis player it was an honor to participate in Wimbledon. It was a dream come true indeed. Playing against players from all over the world, who are the top in their country, is definitely the best part of my Wimbledon

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Lee wants national training facility

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If he were Bruce Wayne, Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee would gift all sports federations in the CNMI with a training facility.

But since he's not the eccentric billionaire of Gotham City whose alter ego is the caped crusader Batman, the NMSA 2021 Administrator of the Year would settle for

the Oleai Sports Complex turned into a national training center.

"My take is to convert the Oleai Sports Complex as the national training facility instead of a community center. I'm not saying the public won't be allowed to use it. The difference will be that it will be prioritized for the national sports program now instead of the other way around. The public could still

use it but at certain times," he said.

Lee said having a national training facility will allow athletes to train year-round and will also make sports federations more accountable to the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

"If each federation is given a place to train then NMSA can hold each federation accountable for their program/

results."

He specifically uses the NMIBF as an example of a sports federation that has a year-long sport program but still has no facility to train on.

"Basketball for instance, we have created a structured year-round program for the nationals—both juniors and seniors—as well as other community programs/outreach. However, we have no facilities to conduct any

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee speaks during the send-off event for the CNMI national men's and women's basketball teams to the 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup in Guam last June.